Shojo Beat Manga
NANA
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT
TIME TABLE
Story & Art by
Ai Yazawa
17

Shojo Beat

NANA Vol. 17

Story & Art by Ai Yazawa

NANA

Contents

Chapter 62 3
Chapter 63 55
Chapter 64 99
Chapter 65 145
Bonus Page 188

The Story of Nana

Nana "Hachi" Komatsu and Nana Osaki meet by chance on a train headed for Tokyo. Their personalities and the environments they grew up in are very different, but by fate or by chance, they meet again and become roommates...

Search Weekly sends Nana a shocking photo of Ren and Reira together, but Takumi stops the story from going to print by selling his own marriage to Hachi as a scoop in exchange.

Nana goes into a panic from her increasing isolation and things not going her way. Ren points out the roots of these problems, and she decides to summon the courage to face the people surrounding her.

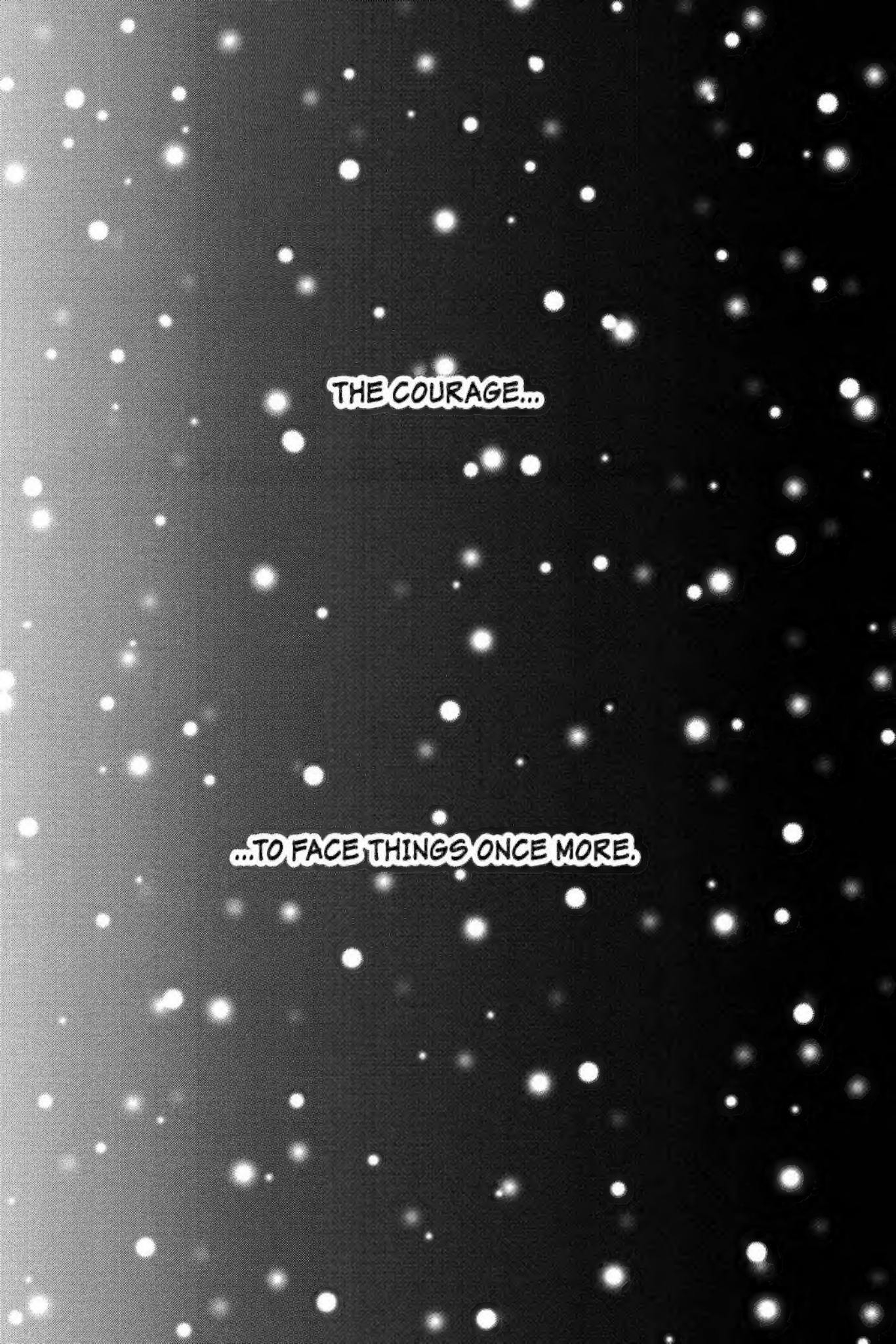
New Year's is fast approaching, and Trapnest leaves to record in England. Blast decides to hold a thank-you party on Christmas Eve. Misato Uehara from Osaka is on the guest list. When the other Misato (Mai) finds out, she tells them not to let Nana and Misato meet. The party ends without a hitch, but Misato does meet Nana, and Yasu starts to realize the connection between the two girls.

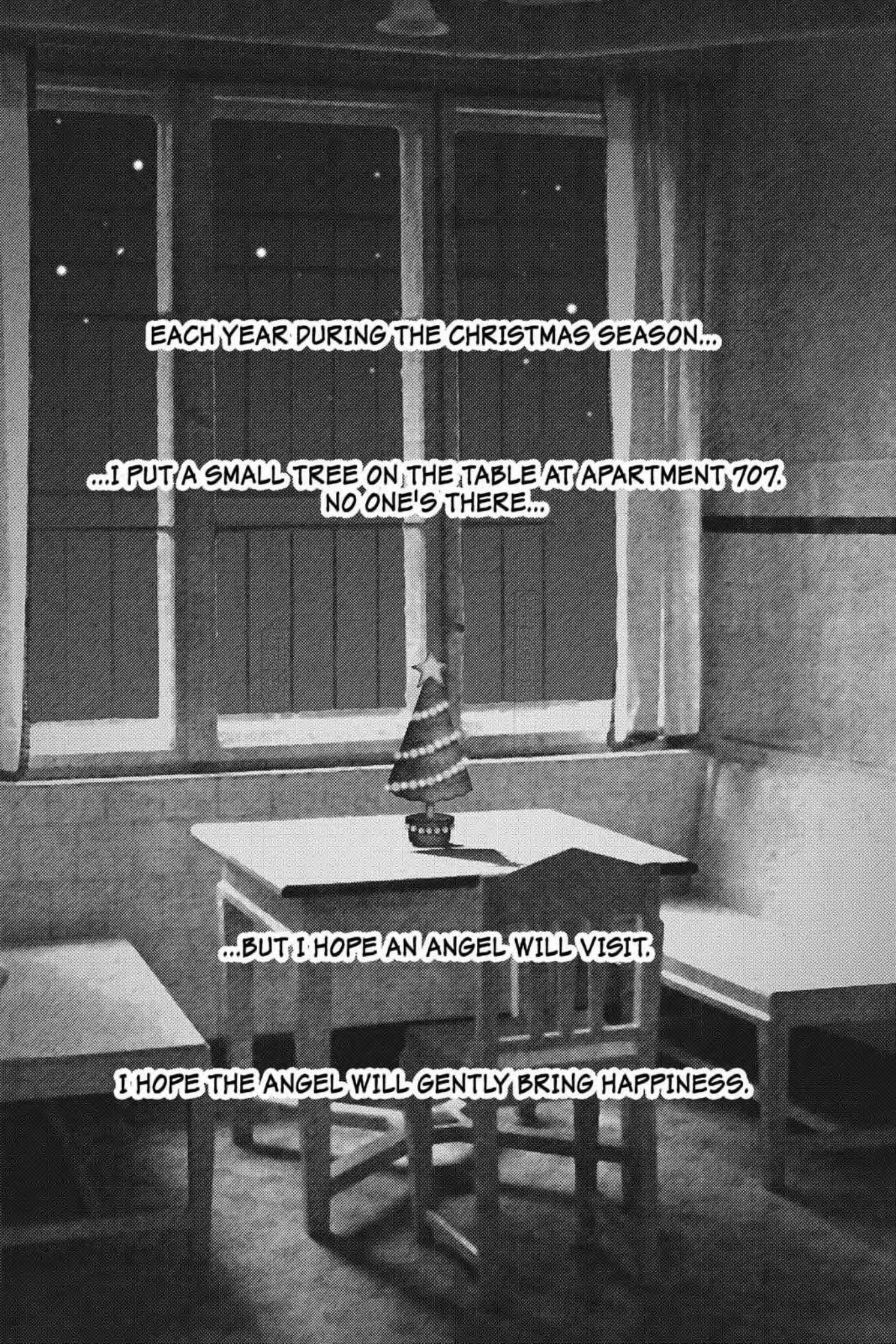
Right after Blast returns to Tokyo, Trapnest is about to go to the U.K. for a two month recording session. As that day approaches, everyone is brooding over their complicated situations.

Then *Search* pays Hachi a visit, and she finds out that Nana's mother is still alive. Provoked by Kurata, she goes to Osaka, but...?!

♥For the complete story, please check out *Nana*, volumes 1 - 16.
Available in bookstores everywhere!!

BUT NOW I JUST WANT ONE THING...


THE COURAGE...
...TO FACE THINGS ONCE MORE.


EACH YEAR DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON...
...I PUT A SMALL TREE ON THE TABLE AT APARTMENT 707.
NO ONE'S THERE...
...BUT I HOPE AN ANGEL WILL VISIT.
I HOPE THE ANGEL WILL GENTLY BRING HAPPINESS.

NANA

——ナナ——

[Chapter 62]

Yoko: Father
Shuichi:...
Same. Dining Room
Morning, at table
Shuichi looks at Yoko
Yoko: This afternoon
Yoko: Then have Shu
Shuichi: But

sssst
creak
707
LETTER BOX

Christmas
SALE
Dec. 15th - 25th
Ms. Nana Ichinose
Tamagawa 8-25-7 Chofu
stomp
stomp
stomp stomp
stomp
stomp
...

SHIN!

YOU DIDN'T ANSWER YOUR CELL PHONE.
OH...
YEAH, SORRY.
I TURN OFF MY CELL WHEN I'M WORKING.
IS IT IMPOR-TANT?
SO I CALLED YOUR HOUSE, AND THEY SAID YOU'D BE DROPPING BY HERE.
NO.
I WAS SHOOTING ON LOCATION AND GOT HOMESICK. I WANTED TO SEE MY MAMA.
YOU KNOW I'M A MAMA'S BOY.
EVERY-THING LOOKS THE SAME HERE.
SO EVEN NOW I'M HOPING...
BUT THE KEY TO APART-MENT 707 WASN'T THERE.
707
NANA HAD LEFT SO MANY THINGS BEHIND...

...SOMEHOW NANA WILL BE THERE.
...THAT WHEN I OPEN THE DOOR...
rustle
AND LOOK AT THIS.
slide
I WONDER WHO SENT THIS.
Ms. Nana Ichinose
Tamagawa 8-25-7
I WONDER WHAT IT IS.
...
MAIL THAT COMES TO ME HERE ALWAYS SAYS KOMATSU ON IT. BUT THIS SAYS ICHINOSE...
OH.
...SO ALL THIS JUNK MAIL'S PILED UP.
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY LATELY AND COULDN'T STOP BY MUCH...
SO ANNOYING.
NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO.
PEOPLE JUST STUFF YOUR MAILBOX HERE.

THERE'S NO STAMP OR POSTMARK ON IT.
SOMEONE CAME HERE AND PUT IT IN YOUR MAILBOX.
.....
DON'T OPEN IT.
IT MIGHT BE SOME CRAZY STALKER.
BUT I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.
'TIS THE SEASON. WHAT IF IT'S SANTA CLAUS?
WE DON'T HAVE A CHIMNEY, SO...
.....
I'M OPENING IT! ♡
BUT WHAT IF IT'S FROM NANA?
SO DON'T.
SANTA DOESN'T EXIST.

I FELT LIKE SOMEONE WAS SAYING THAT TO ME.
"NO WAY."
...WE WON'T GIVE UP. WE STILL BELIEVE...
BUT NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS...
...THAT NANA'S ALIVE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.

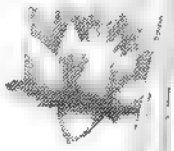
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
WHAT IS IT?!

snack

NANA…

EVERY YEAR AROUND CHRISTMAS TIME...

...I PRAY FOR A MIRACLE.

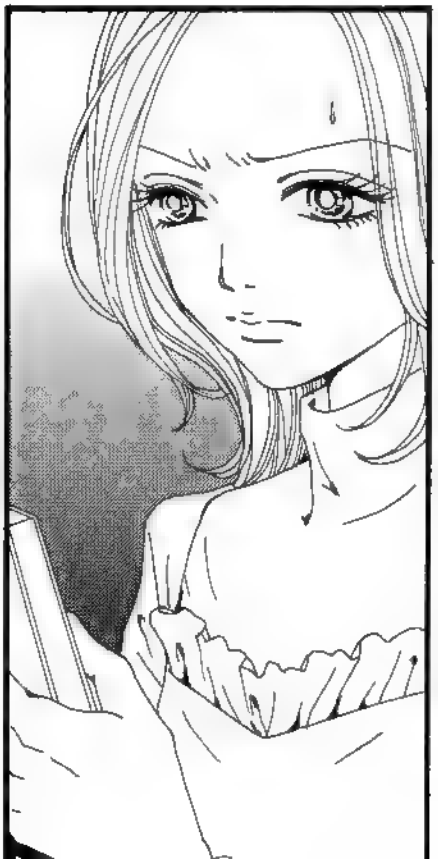


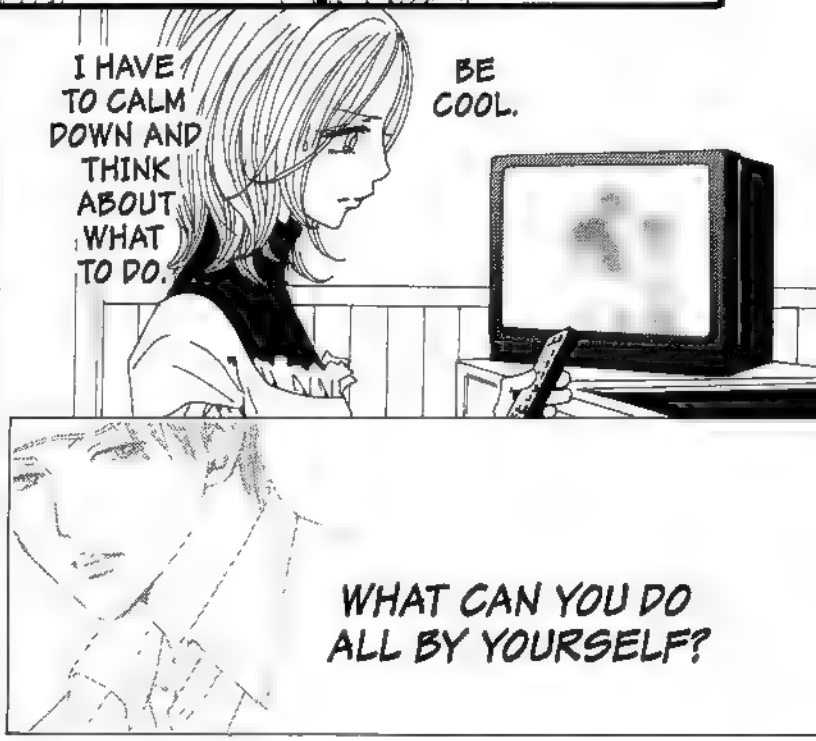
NOT THAT I BELIEVE IN ANGELS OR SANTA CLAUS...

...BUT IT'S THE NIGHT THAT NANA AND REN FIRST MET.

WELCOME.
WILL IT BE JUST YOU?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I JUST SHOWED UP WITH NO PLAN.
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I SEAT YOU AT THE BAR?
WEL-COME.
BUT, WHAT SHOULD I SAY, AND HOW?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

BEER OR SAKE.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
OH, CAN I SEE A MENU?
SORRY.
WE DON'T SERVE ENOUGH DISHES TO PUT ON A MENU.
WE GOT PORK AND EGGS, SQUID AND EGGS, OR A COMBO.
.....
WHAT A HANDSOME MIDDLE-AGED MAN.
UNLIKE MY DAD!
ALL RIGHT THEN, SQUID AND EGGS.
AND DO YOU HAVE OOLONG TEA?
ALL RIGHT.
COMING RIGHT UP! FEEL FREE TO WATCH SOME TV.
WHAT-EVER CHANNEL YOU WANT.
BUT THIS GUY'S NOT NANA'S DAD.




BE COOL.
I HAVE TO CALM DOWN AND THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO.
WHAT CAN YOU DO ALL BY YOURSELF?

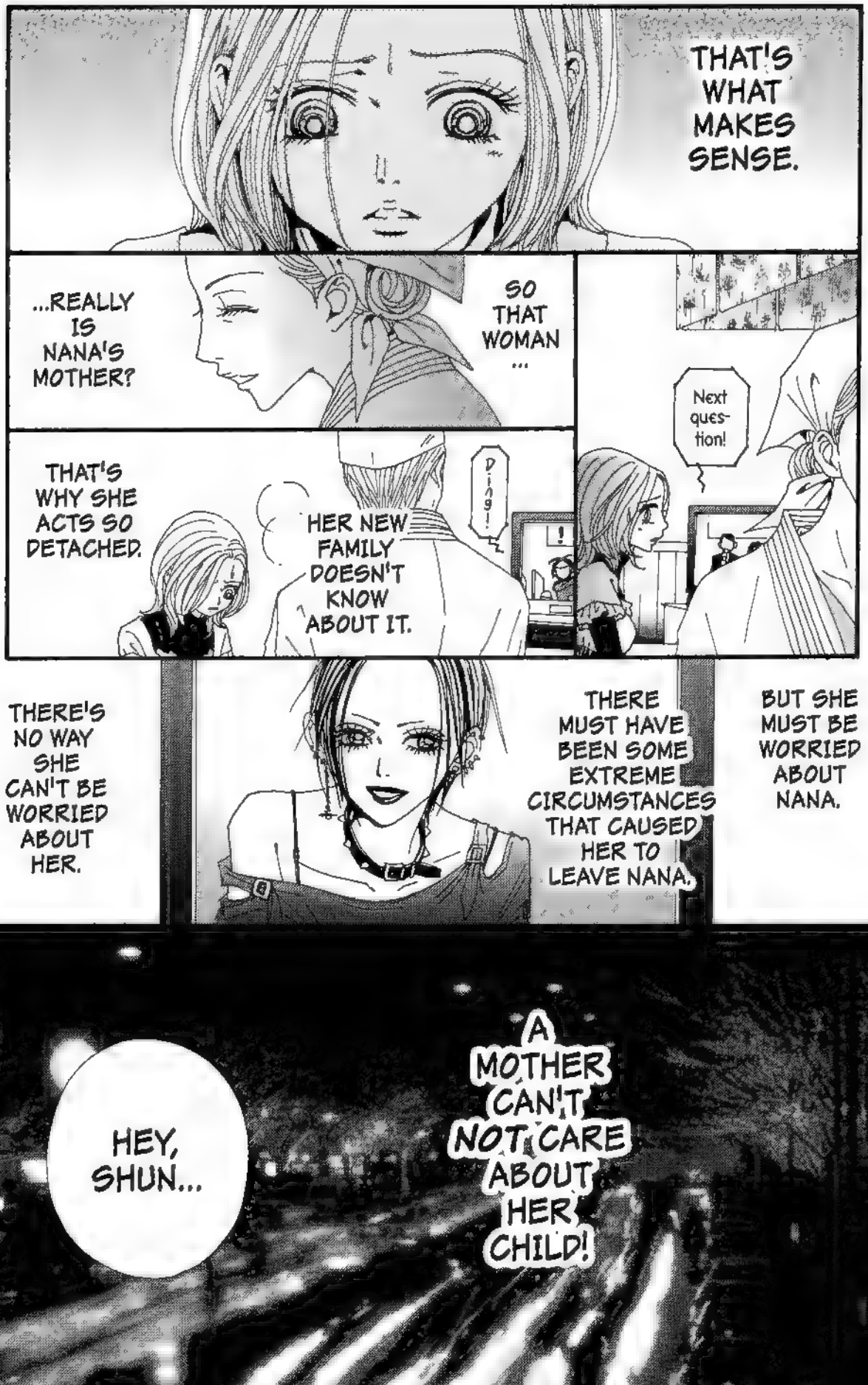
Ding!
So the "ugly duckling" is...
Quiz ★ COMMON SENSE
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
A tadpole is a baby frog.
SCREW KURATA!
SORRY I'M SUCH A NOBODY!
click
My baby! ♡
WHAT SHOULD I SAY?!
BUNN
Identify yourself!
Then whose baby is it?!
Bwahaha!
NANA'S JUST SCREWING WITH THEM!
SHE CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

I CAN HANG YOUR COAT AND HAT UP FOR YOU.
OH, SURE!
THANKS!
...
Ha ha
CLINK
...MUST BE SOME MISTAKE.
THERE...
...
WHY SHOULD I TRUST WHAT SEARCH SAYS?
IF SHE REALLY WAS NANA'S MOTHER, SHE WOULDN'T ACT SO DETACHED.
NANA
SLIDE

HI, I'M HOME!
WELL...
HELLO, MISATO.
MERRY CHRIST-MAS!♡
HEY, MISATO!
MISATO?!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO COME IN THROUGH THE BACK?
5/24
Next question.
OH NO!
IT STARTED ALREADY!
Nanana!
HEY HEY...
IF YOU WANT TO WATCH TV, GO UPSTAIRS.
I'LL GO UPSTAIRS WHEN IT GETS TO A COMMER-CIAL!
A NANA FREAK ?!
AND SHE'S COS-PLAYING AS NANA ?!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
THE CUSTOMERS ARE WATCHING TV.
OH, I DON'T MIND. REALLY!

THANK YOU!
Hee hee
REALLY?
plop
WHY DON'T YOU SIT HERE AND WATCH?
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY.
OH...
MAN, SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE NANA.
MAYBE THE SON'S HOT TOO?
THEY ALL ARE.
SHE'S SO CUTE. ♡
YOU'RE SO MEAN!
ALL RIGHT...
GEEZ!
GO UP-STAIRS!
UH-UH, MI-SATO.
"MISATO UEHARA" ?!
...SHE'S NANA'S LITTLE SISTER...
IF WHAT SEARCH SAYS IS TRUE...
UEHARA
UEHARA
MISATO...

SSS—
...
I MEAN MAI— JUST HAPPENS TO CALL HERSELF BY THE EXACT SAME NAME...
WHAT'S THE CHANCE THAT MISATO—
...AS NANA'S LITTLE SISTER?!
...IF MISATO KNEW EVERY-THING ABOUT NANA.
It's what keeps me going!
I do my home-work!
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED...
...AND USED HER NAME, PRETENDING TO BE HER.
UEHARA
SHE MUST'VE FOUND OUT ABOUT NANA'S SISTER...


THAT'S WHAT MAKES SENSE.
...REALLY IS NANA'S MOTHER?
SO THAT WOMAN ...
Next question!
THAT'S WHY SHE ACTS SO DETACHED.
HER NEW FAMILY DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT.
Ding!
!
THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN'T BE WORRIED ABOUT HER.
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CAUSED HER TO LEAVE NANA.
BUT SHE MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT NANA.
HEY, SHUN...
A MOTHER CAN'T NOT CARE ABOUT HER CHILD!

AOYAMA CEME-TERY.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
HUH ?
WHAT ?!
WHEN I'M DONE FOR THE DAY, CAN I GO BACK TO MY PLACE?
IT'S AN APART-MENT NEAR THE CEME-TERY.
OH, RIGHT.
Dami~
THAT'S A NICE NEIGH-BORHOOD.
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO STAY THERE AT ALL SINCE OUR RECORD RELEASE.
I HAVE TO GO HOME FOR CHRISTMAS, AT LEAST.
ALL RIGHT. ♡ THAT'S A GOOD REASON. GIN CAN'T COMPLAIN. I'LL DRIVE YOU THERE.
THANKS, MAN! ♡
MISATO'S FATHER LAUGHED AT NANA'S OUTRAGEOUS ANSWERS...
...AND COOKED ME SOME AMAZING OKONOMI-YAKI.

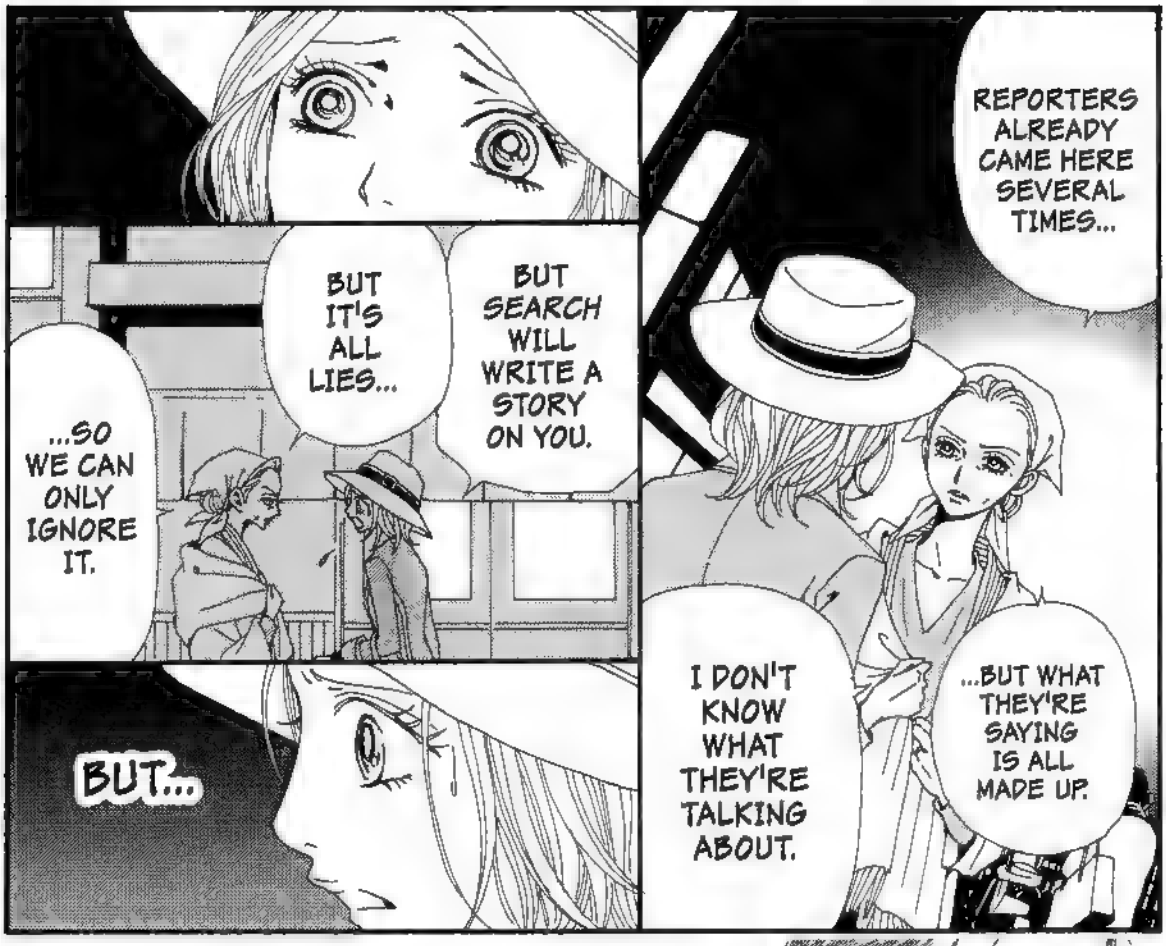
NOT OLD ENOUGH TO CONSIDER HER PARENTS AS PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN LIVES APART FROM HER.
THAT GIRL MUST BE JUST A LITTLE YOUNGER THAN SHIN...
...IF THEY SUDDENLY FOUND OUT THE TRUTH?
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THIS PEACEFUL, HAPPY FAMILY...
Ah ha ha
BUT I'M A STRANGER. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
PLEASE COME AGAIN.
THANK YOU.
CAN YOU COME OUT-SIDE AND SHOW ME?
I NEED SOME DIRECTIONS TO WHERE I'M HEADED.
UM...

OKONOMIYAKI
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BUT I CAN'T JUST GO HOME WITHOUT SAYING ANY-THING.
I'M NANA ICHINOSE.
I CAME HERE FROM TOKYO.
OH...
FROM TOKYO?

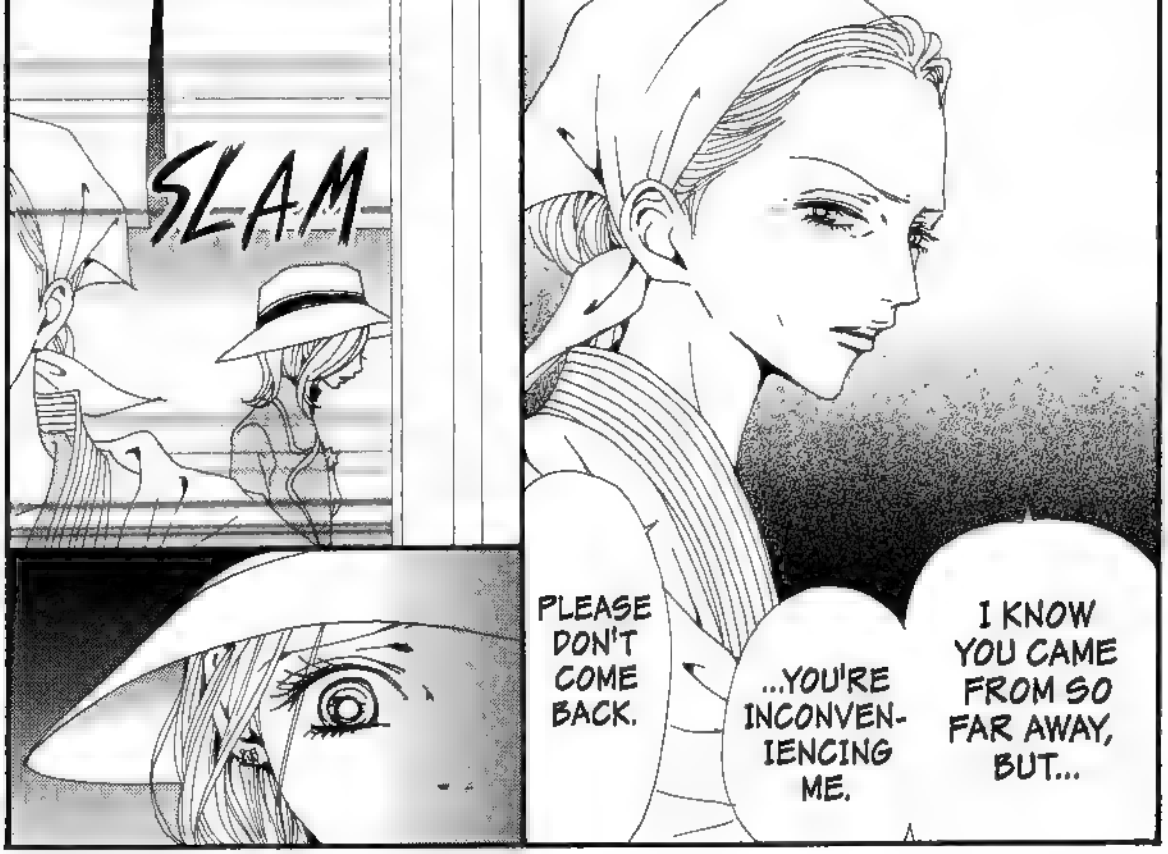
I'M MARRIED TO TAKUMI FROM TRAP-NEST.

IF SHE'S NANA'S MOTHER...
...SHE MUST'VE READ THE MAGAZINE.
Trapnest's Takumi secretly weds Nana's best friend
THE ARTICLE MENTIONED THAT I WAS NANA'S BEST FRIEND.
SO SHE REALLY IS...
A WEEKLY MAGAZINE IS TRYING TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT NANA AND HER LONG LOST MOTHER.

IF THE REPORTERS FIND OUT ABOUT THIS PLACE, THEY MIGHT START STAKING IT OUT.
...BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW SPECIFIC THE ARTICLE WILL GET.
SINCE YOU'RE NOT A CELEBRITY, I DON'T THINK THEY'LL PRINT YOUR REAL NAME...
...AND FOR NANA'S.
I'M SORRY...
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS ...
...I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE THE BEST THING TO DO...
...FOR YOUR FAMILY'S SAKE...
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.

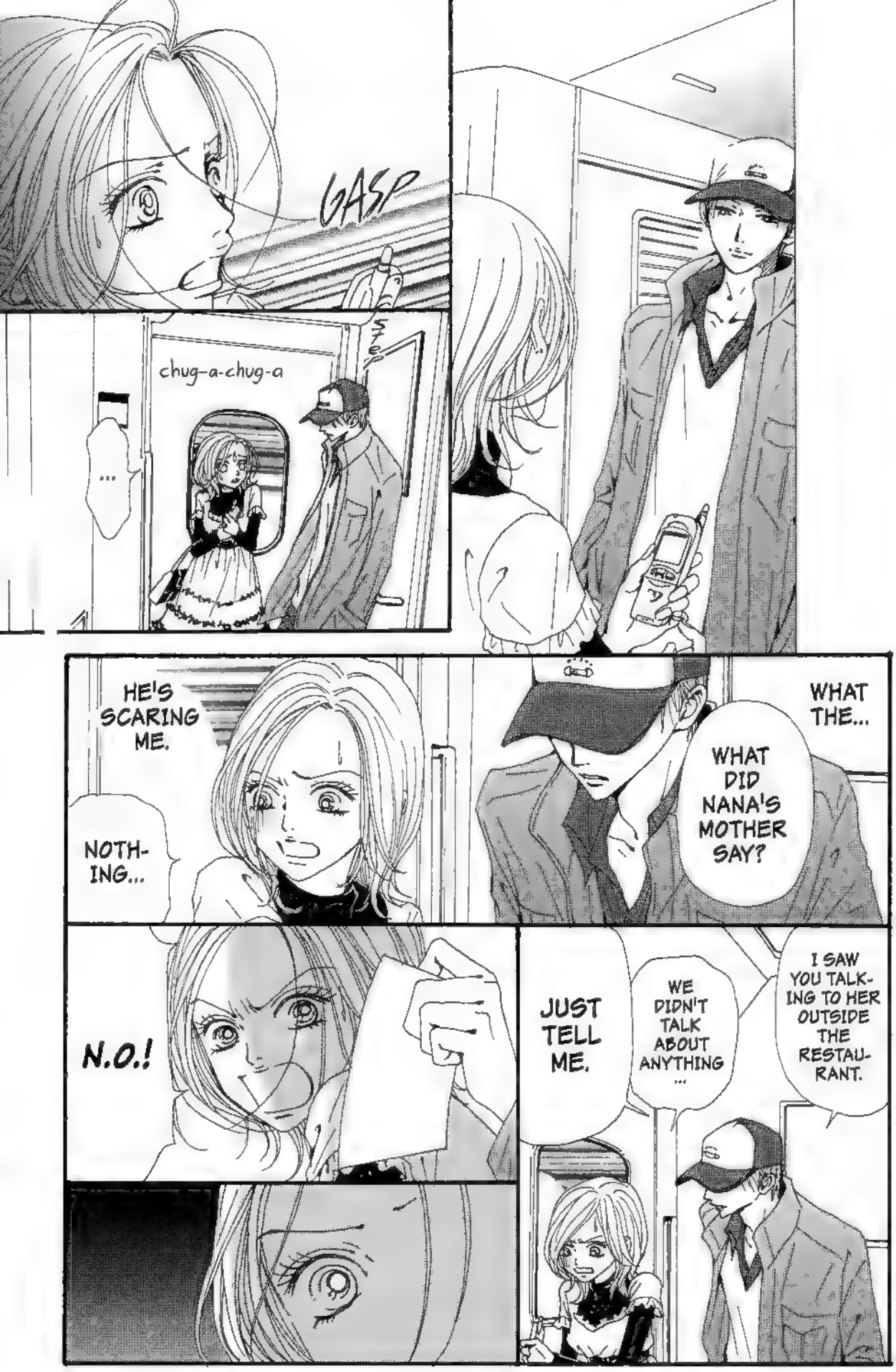

REPORTERS ALREADY CAME HERE SEVERAL TIMES...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.
...BUT WHAT THEY'RE SAYING IS ALL MADE UP.
BUT SEARCH WILL WRITE A STORY ON YOU.
BUT IT'S ALL LIES...
...SO WE CAN ONLY IGNORE IT.
BUT...

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S TRUE OR NOT!
BUT NO MATTER WHAT THE TRUTH IS, WHEN THE RUMORS SPREAD, A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE IT.
THAT MAY BE FINE WITH YOU, BUT YOUR FAMILY WILL PAY.
WELL, IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.


SLAM
I KNOW YOU CAME FROM SO FAR AWAY, BUT...
...YOU'RE INCONVEN-IENCING ME.
PLEASE DON'T COME BACK.

WHY?
NANA
...LIKE THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU?
HOW CAN YOU ACT...

...NOT KNOWING WHAT ELSE I CAN DO.
BUT IT SUCKS...
I HAVE TO AT LEAST TRY TO PROTECT NANA MYSELF.
I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING.
beep beep
Search by hiragana
7. Ma
8. Ya
Yasu
THANK YOU...
chug-a-chug-a
beep


GASP
chug-a-chug-a
...
I SAW YOU TALKING TO HER OUTSIDE THE RESTAURANT.
WE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING ...
JUST TELL ME.
N.O.!
WHAT THE...
WHAT DID NANA'S MOTHER SAY?
HE'S SCARING ME.
NOTHING...

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU TAKE THIS PHOTO AWAY.
I GOT PLENTY OF COPIES.
YOU CAN'T PRINT THAT!
PLEASE!

JUST TELL ME EVERYTHING MISUZU UEHARA TOLD YOU, AND THE PHOTO WILL DISAPPEAR.
BUT DON'T WORRY.
YOU SACRIFICED YOURSELF TO KEEP HER RELATIONSHIP WITH REN A SECRET. THIS WOULD RUIN ALL THAT.
OF COURSE YOU DON'T WANT IT TO GO TO PRINT.
REIRA'S A PRINCESS YOU HAVE TO CLEAN UP AFTER.
HUH? I SACRIFICED MYSELF?
AND WHAT RELATIONSHIP WITH REN?
TAKUMI DIDN'T TELL YOU?!
WHAT?!
SHATTER
UGH.
THIS IS BAD.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! ♡
We came to see if you're cheating on your wife!
IT'S OUR DAY OFF. LEMME SLEEP.
IT'S NOON ALREADY, MASTER.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING UP SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
Swarm swarm swarm!
CHARGE
...
What?
Ramen?
I found something!
YOU DON'T SEEM TOO WORRIED ABOUT GETTING CAUGHT TOGETHER IN THOSE PHOTOS.
YOU GUYS SURE SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD.

THIS IS ENGLAND. THAT'S THEIR CHRISTMAS THING.
NOT FOOD CRACKERS, DUH!
Yay!
CHRISTMAS CRACKERS!
IS THIS A BOMB?
CAN YOU EAT 'EM?
Ta-da!
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
POP
.....
CAN'T YOU WAIT 'TIL THE PARTY TONIGHT?!
Eeek!
Eeek!
WOW!
THEY HAVE WEIRD THINGS INSIDE!
DON'T OPEN THEM ALL!
EVEN PLAYING CARDS

THERE'S NO WAY REN AND REIRA HOOKED UP.
BUT IT'S A FACT THEY SPENT THE NIGHT TOGETHER IN REN'S ROOM.
EVEN IF YOU SAY IT'S NOT POS-SIBLE...
YOU'RE LYING.
chug-a-chug-a...
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT...
WELL...
You big liar!
WHY WOULD HE NEED TO HIDE IT FROM ME?!
IF TAKUMI MADE A DEAL LIKE THAT WITH SEARCH, HE'D TELL ME!
SO THEN, SHIN...
...BUT IT'S NOT GOOD TO LET SOMEONE IN YOUR HUSBAND'S PRECIOUS BAND'S SCANDAL BECOME PUBLIC, NOW IS IT?
WHAT HAPPENS TO TRAPNEST AFFECTS YOUR LIVELIHOOD TOO.

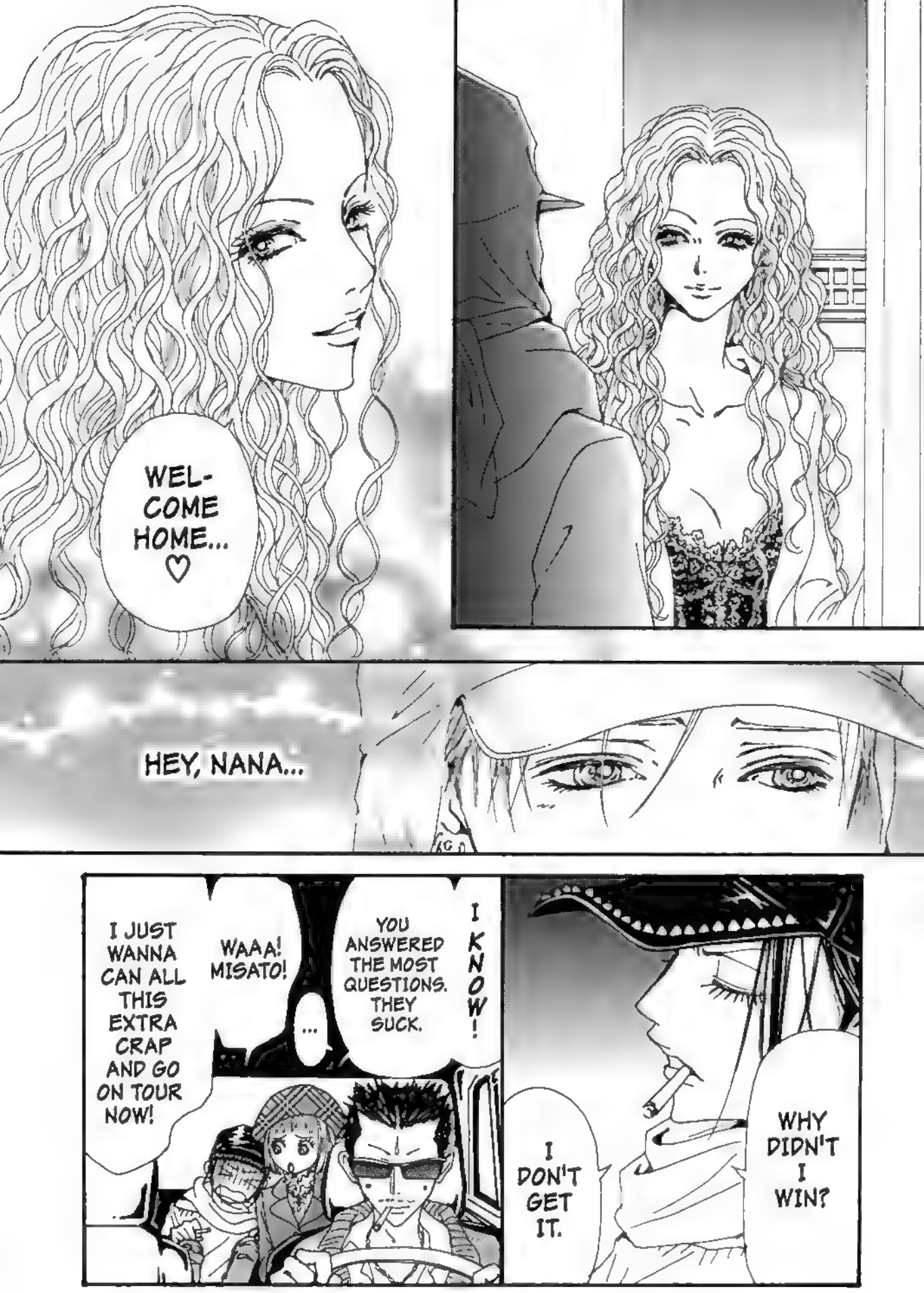
IS THAT WHY THEY BROKE UP?!
BUT MS. UEHARA DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING. FOR REAL.
SHE SAID IT WAS ALL LIES, THAT I WAS JUST BOTHERING HER...
OH...
THIS WAS OUR LAST CHANCE.
I PROM-ISE YOU.
WHEN THIS ARTICLE GOES TO PRINT, THAT PHOTO'LL DISAPPEAR.
...DON'T DO ANYTHING TO INTERFERE WITH THIS.
THEN ...
DON'T TELL ANY-ONE ABOUT THIS.

IT WAS NICE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.
chug-a-chug-a...
I'M SORRY, NANA.
BUT SHIN'S THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT MOST.

BUT NANA, YOU'RE STRONG AND RIGHTEOUS ...
HIS EYES WORRY ME. THEY CHANGE EVERY TIME HE BLINKS. THEY GET COLD OR THEY GET TEARY.
YOU CAN DETERMINE YOUR OWN FATE.
SORRY. IT DIDN'T PAN OUT.
I TOLD YOU! Idiot!
...SO YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
IT'S KURATA.

MISUZU'S NOT THE KINDA PERSON TO CAVE IN TO EMOTION AND CONFESS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'LL GET IT READY FOR TODAY'S DEAD-LINE.
OTHER RAGS ARE ON IT NOW TOO!
ARE YOU SURE THIS REALLY ISN'T REIRA?
The end-of-the year issue streets one day early.♡
The Editor
.....
SLAM
OF COURSE NOT!
IF WE HAD SUCH A BIG SCOOP, WE'D'VE PUT IT OUT ALREADY!
blah
blah
I'm too busy for your stupid questions!
Who is she?
BUT SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE REIRA! ♡
SHE'S JUST ONE OF A BUNCH OF LADIES SHIN HUNG OUT WITH BEFORE THEIR DEBUT. SHE'S NOT A CELEBRITY.
SHE'S NOT WORTH WRITING ABOUT.
HE HAD HEAPS.
WHO IS SHE?
ONLY KURATA PICKS UP ON FINE DETAILS LIKE THAT.
I DON'T THINK THEY LOOK THAT MUCH ALIKE.
NOW SCRAM.
INTRO-DUCE ME TO HER!

I WISH HE'D GIVE US A REASON TO WRITE ABOUT HIM.
1705
Kashiwagi
BUT NOW THAT HE LIVES IN THE DORMS, HE'S BEING A GOOD LITTLE BOY.
I'm lonely too!
IF HE GETS THAT MANY, TELL HIM TO SEND A FEW MY WAY.
click
creak


WEL-
COME
HOME...
♡
HEY, NANA...
I KNOW!
YOU ANSWERED THE MOST QUESTIONS. THEY SUCK.
...
WAAA! MISATO!
I JUST WANNA CAN ALL THIS EXTRA CRAP AND GO ON TOUR NOW!
WHY DIDN'T I WIN?
I DON'T GET IT.

I...

...JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU...

...TO SEE YOU...

...TO SEE YOU...

...AND I WALKED THAT ROAD...

...UP TO THAT ROOM...

...COUNTLESS TIMES.

NANA...
GORAD

I WANT TO SEE YOU RIGHT NOW.

BUT GUILT CAME RUNNING AFTER ME.

THE NEXT MORNING, I TOOK THE FIRST TRAIN OUT TO MY PARENTS' PLACE, AS IF I WAS RUNNING AWAY.

I SPENT THAT NIGHT ALONE IN CHICAGO. I COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL.

NANA

[Chapter 65]

beep
Blast
ring~
GOOD MORN-ING, SHIN!
I'LL BE THERE IN 15 MINUTES.
WHAT ROOM ARE YOU IN?

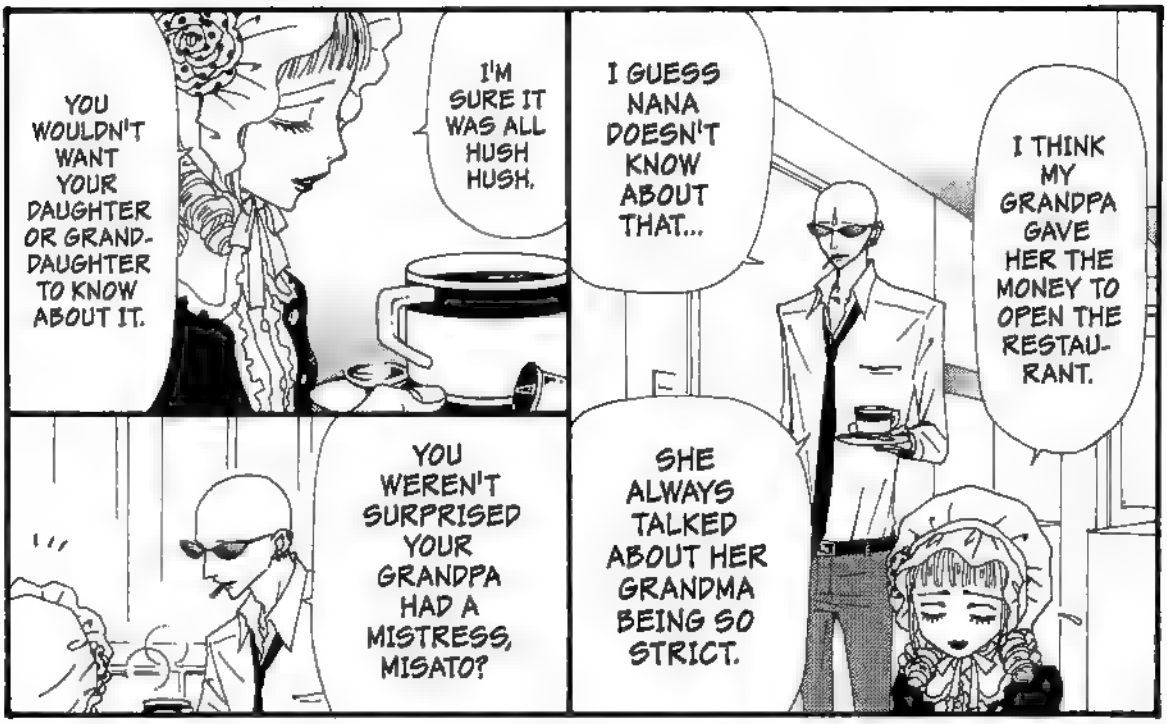
SORRY...
I JUST WOKE UP. I'M RUNNING A LITTLE LATE.
CAN YOU JUST WAIT FOR ME DOWN IN THE LOBBY?
OKAY.

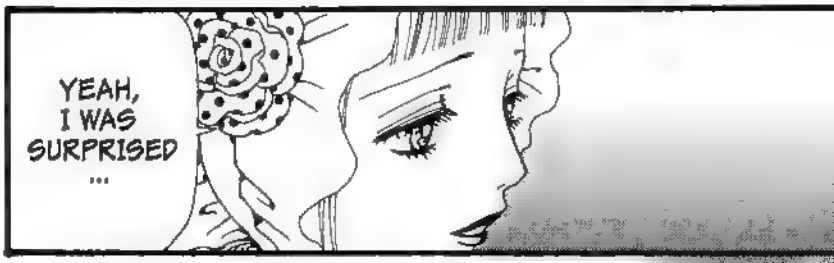
creak
slide
WHOSE IS THIS?
TOMO'S. ♡
CAN I BORROW IT?
SURE. I BOUGHT IT.
HE CAN'T COM-PLAIN.
THE SLEEVES ARE TOO SHORT.
THEY ARE?
THEN STOP GROW-ING!
OR YA WON'T BE CUTE ANYMORE!

I'M A LIVING THING.
NOT POSSI-BLE.
HMMM, I GUESS THERE ARE A LOT OF TALL SCAN-DINAVIANS.
DAMN ...
THESE ARE MY GRAND-FATHER'S DIARIES...
...AND THE LETTERS THAT NANA'S MOTHER WROTE TO HIM.
Mr. Genichiro Tsuzuki

GRANDPA DIED...
...WHEN I WAS IN NINTH GRADE.
HE DIED SUDDENLY OF A HEART ATTACK.
MY PARENTS DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO ME 'CAUSE THEY WERE SO BUSY WORKING...
AND GRANDMA DIED WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
...SO I WAS REALLY CLOSE TO MY GRAND-FATHER.
HE WAS MY ROCK. I WAS IN TOTAL SHOCK.
I SHUT MYSELF UP IN HIS ROOM...
...AND JUST CRIED FOR DAYS.
AND...
tap

THERE'S NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
I'M SORRY ...
THANK YOU.
YOU WANT ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE?
AND THEN YOU FOUND YOUR GRANDPA'S DIARIES AND STARTED READING THEM.
glug glug
YEAH ...
SHE STARTED WORKING THE NIGHTLIFE SCENE TO MAKE ENDS MEET.
MIYUKI LOST HER HUSBAND IN TOKYO, AND THEN WENT BACK TO HER HOMETOWN WITH MISUZU, WHO WAS STILL LITTLE.
...FROM READING HIS DIARIES?
AND YOU FOUND OUT THAT NANA'S GRANDMA WAS YOUR GRANDPA'S MISTRESS ...
THAT'S HOW SHE GOT TO KNOW MY GRAND-FATHER.
YEAH.


YOU WOULDN'T WANT YOUR DAUGHTER OR GRAND-DAUGHTER TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
I'M SURE IT WAS ALL HUSH HUSH.
I GUESS NANA DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
I THINK MY GRANDPA GAVE HER THE MONEY TO OPEN THE RESTAU-RANT.
SHE ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT HER GRANDMA BEING SO STRICT.
YOU WEREN'T SURPRISED YOUR GRANDPA HAD A MISTRESS, MISATO?

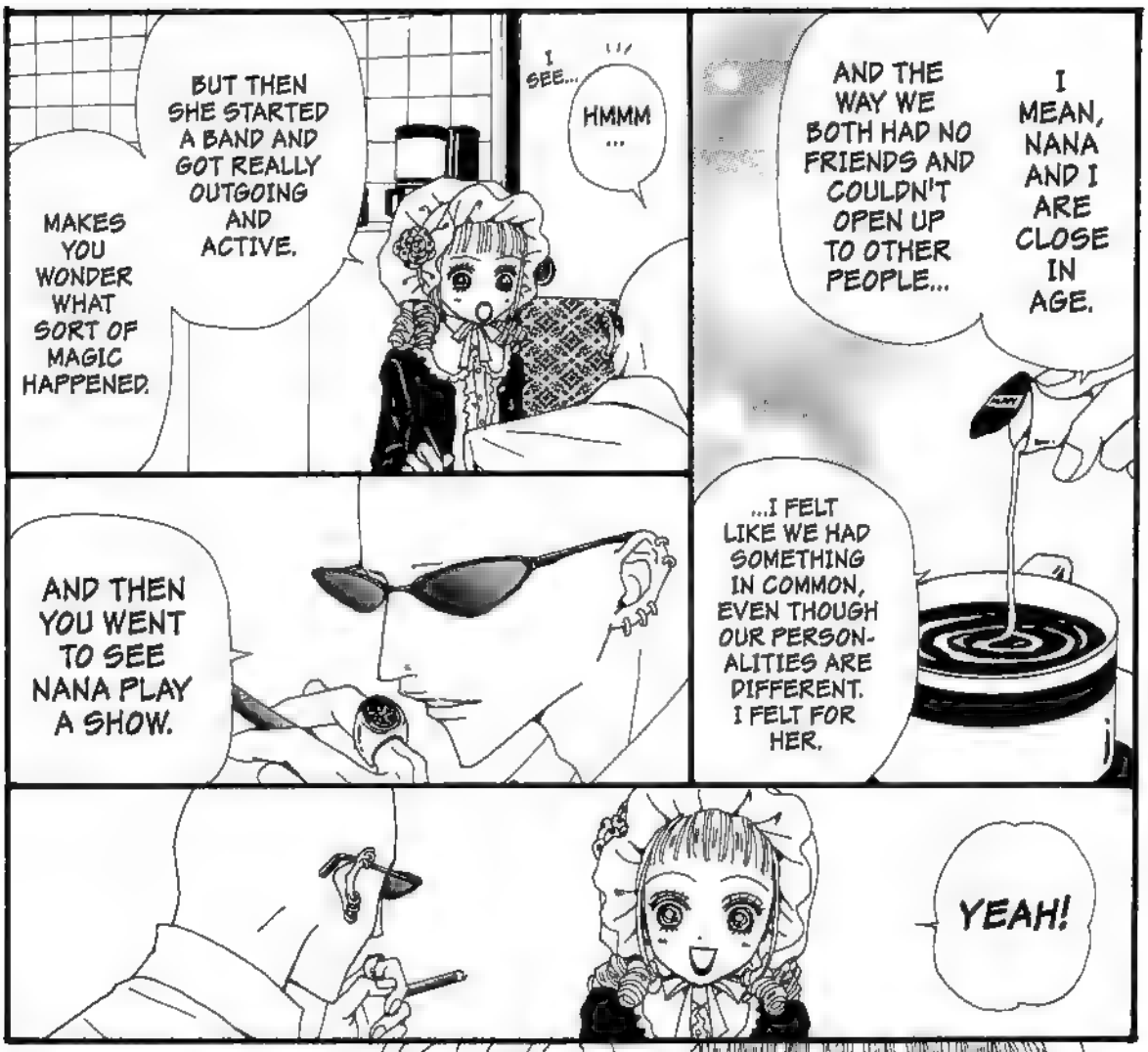

YEAH, I WAS SURPRISED ...

'TIL THE DAY HE DIED..
...GRANDPA WORRIED ABOUT MISUZU AND NANA.
...AND WAS TORN APART BY HIS CONFLICTED FEELINGS...
...BUT I COULD TELL THAT GRANDPA LOVED BOTH GRANDMA AND MIYUKI...
...SO IT'S NOT THAT SHOCKING.

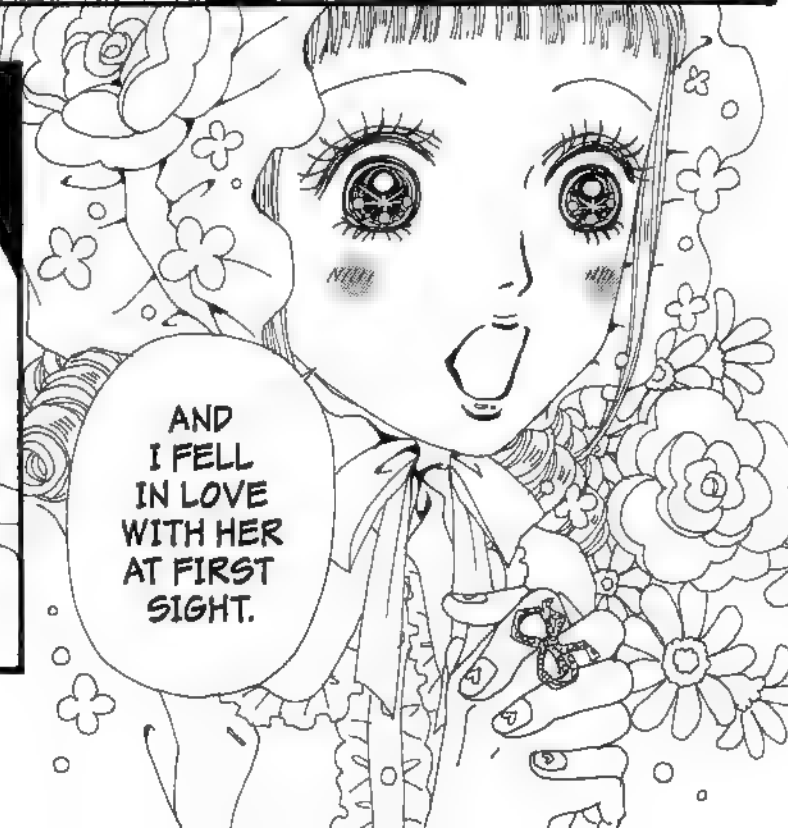
September 3rd

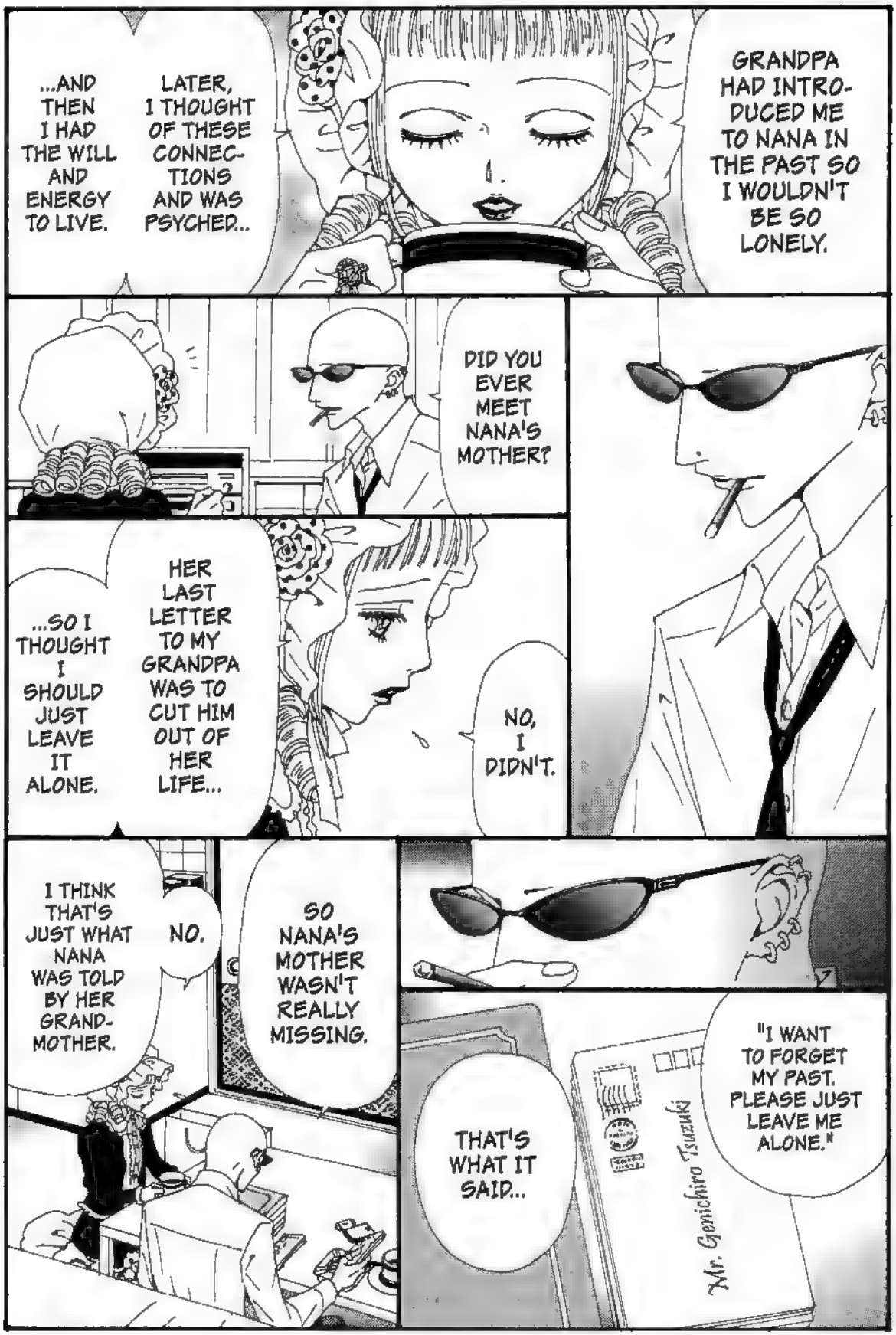
Today I saw Nana around town. I hadn't seen her in a while. She was with a cute boy and looked so happy. I've never seen her look so alive. I was surprised. I asked if he was her boyfriend. She told me they started a band, and he's one of her bandmates. In any case, I'm happy for her. Miyuki in heaven must be too.

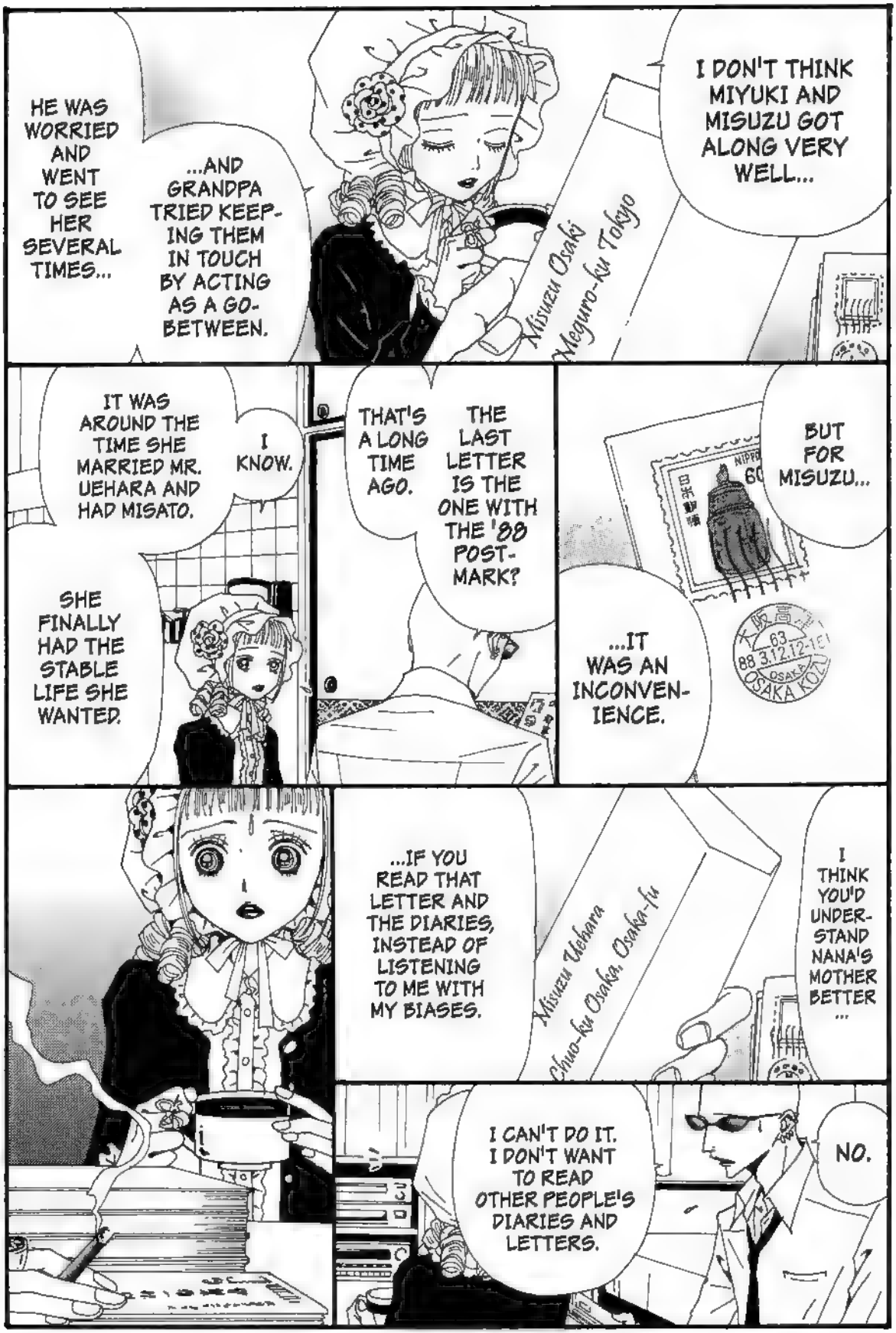
...I REALIZED HOW OBSESSED I'D GOTTEN WITH NANA.
BY THE TIME I REACHED THE LAST PAGE...
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
I GET REALLY OBSESSED WITH CHARACTERS IN THE BOOKS I READ AND STUFF.
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHY.
SO THEN ...
BUT WHY?
Ha ha ...
MAYBE GRANDPA WAS A GREAT WRITER.

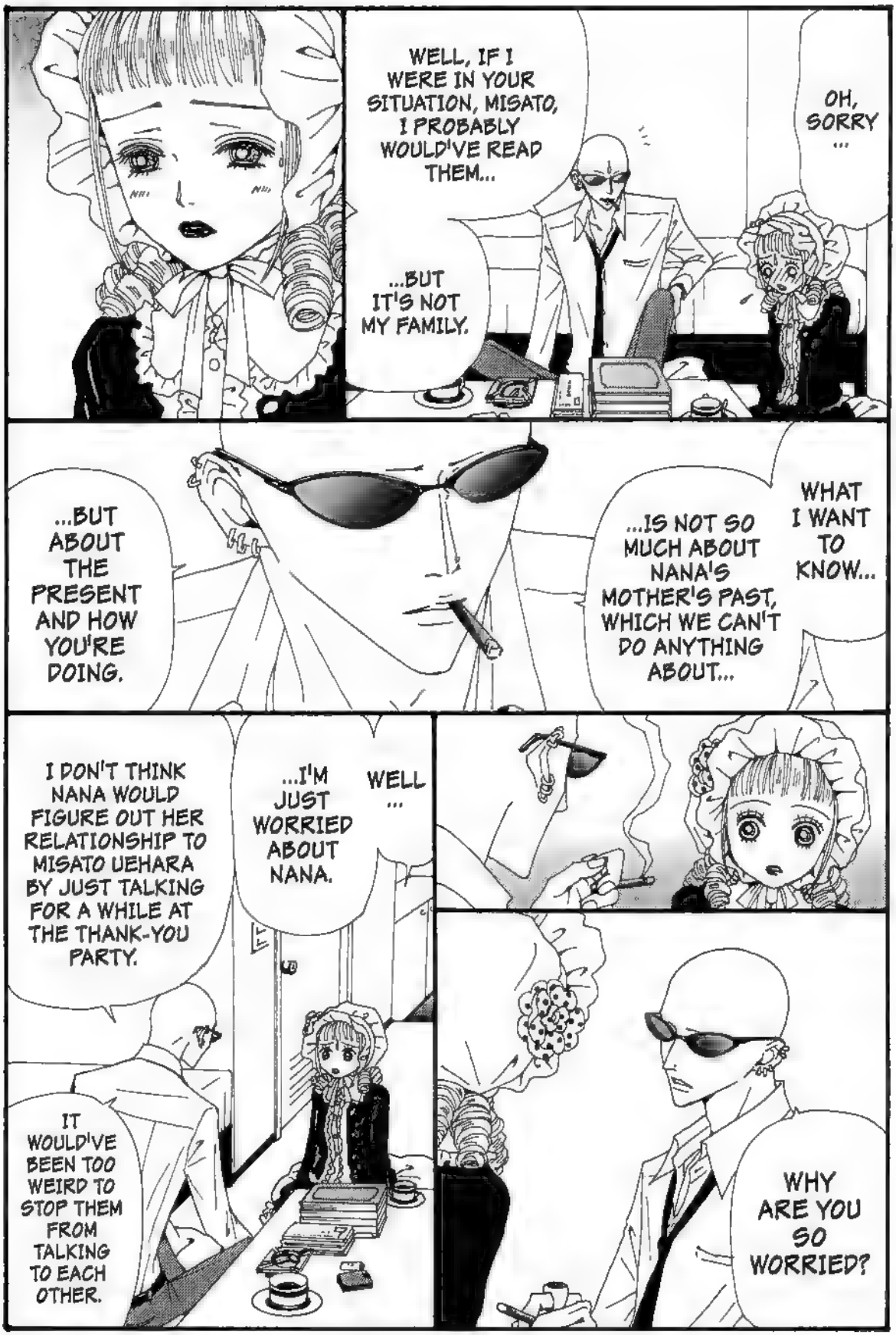

MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT SORT OF MAGIC HAPPENED.
BUT THEN SHE STARTED A BAND AND GOT REALLY OUTGOING AND ACTIVE.
I SEE...
HMMM...
I MEAN, NANA AND I ARE CLOSE IN AGE.
AND THE WAY WE BOTH HAD NO FRIENDS AND COULDN'T OPEN UP TO OTHER PEOPLE...
...I FELT LIKE WE HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON, EVEN THOUGH OUR PERSONALITIES ARE DIFFERENT. I FELT FOR HER.
AND THEN YOU WENT TO SEE NANA PLAY A SHOW.
YEAH!

...


AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER AT FIRST SIGHT.


GRANDPA HAD INTRODUCED ME TO NANA IN THE PAST SO I WOULDN'T BE SO LONELY.
LATER, I THOUGHT OF THESE CONNECTIONS AND WAS PSYCHED..
...AND THEN I HAD THE WILL AND ENERGY TO LIVE.
DID YOU EVER MEET NANA'S MOTHER?
NO, I DIDN'T.
HER LAST LETTER TO MY GRANDPA WAS TO CUT HIM OUT OF HER LIFE...
...SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD JUST LEAVE IT ALONE.
"I WANT TO FORGET MY PAST. PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE."
Mr. Gemichiro Tsuzuki
THAT'S WHAT IT SAID..
SO NANA'S MOTHER WASN'T REALLY MISSING.
NO.
I THINK THAT'S JUST WHAT NANA WAS TOLD BY HER GRANDMOTHER.


I DON'T THINK MIYUKI AND MISUZU GOT ALONG VERY WELL...
Misuzu Osaki
Meguro-ku Tokyo
...AND GRANDPA TRIED KEEPING THEM IN TOUCH BY ACTING AS A GO-BETWEEN.
HE WAS WORRIED AND WENT TO SEE HER SEVERAL TIMES...
BUT FOR MISUZU...
...IT WAS AN INCONVENIENCE.
THE LAST LETTER IS THE ONE WITH THE '88 POST-MARK?
THAT'S A LONG TIME AGO.
I KNOW.
IT WAS AROUND THE TIME SHE MARRIED MR. UEHARA AND HAD MISATO.
SHE FINALLY HAD THE STABLE LIFE SHE WANTED.
I THINK YOU'D UNDERSTAND NANA'S MOTHER BETTER ...
Misuzu Uehara
Chuo-ku Osaka, Osaka-fu
...IF YOU READ THAT LETTER AND THE DIARIES, INSTEAD OF LISTENING TO ME WITH MY BIASES.
NO.
I CAN'T DO IT. I DON'T WANT TO READ OTHER PEOPLE'S DIARIES AND LETTERS.


OH, SORRY ...
WELL, IF I WERE IN YOUR SITUATION, MISATO, I PROBABLY WOULD'VE READ THEM...
...BUT IT'S NOT MY FAMILY.
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW...
...IS NOT SO MUCH ABOUT NANA'S MOTHER'S PAST, WHICH WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT...
...BUT ABOUT THE PRESENT AND HOW YOU'RE DOING.
WELL ...
...I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT NANA.
I DON'T THINK NANA WOULD FIGURE OUT HER RELATIONSHIP TO MISATO UEHARA BY JUST TALKING FOR A WHILE AT THE THANK-YOU PARTY.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN TOO WEIRD TO STOP THEM FROM TALKING TO EACH OTHER.
WHY ARE YOU SO WORRIED?

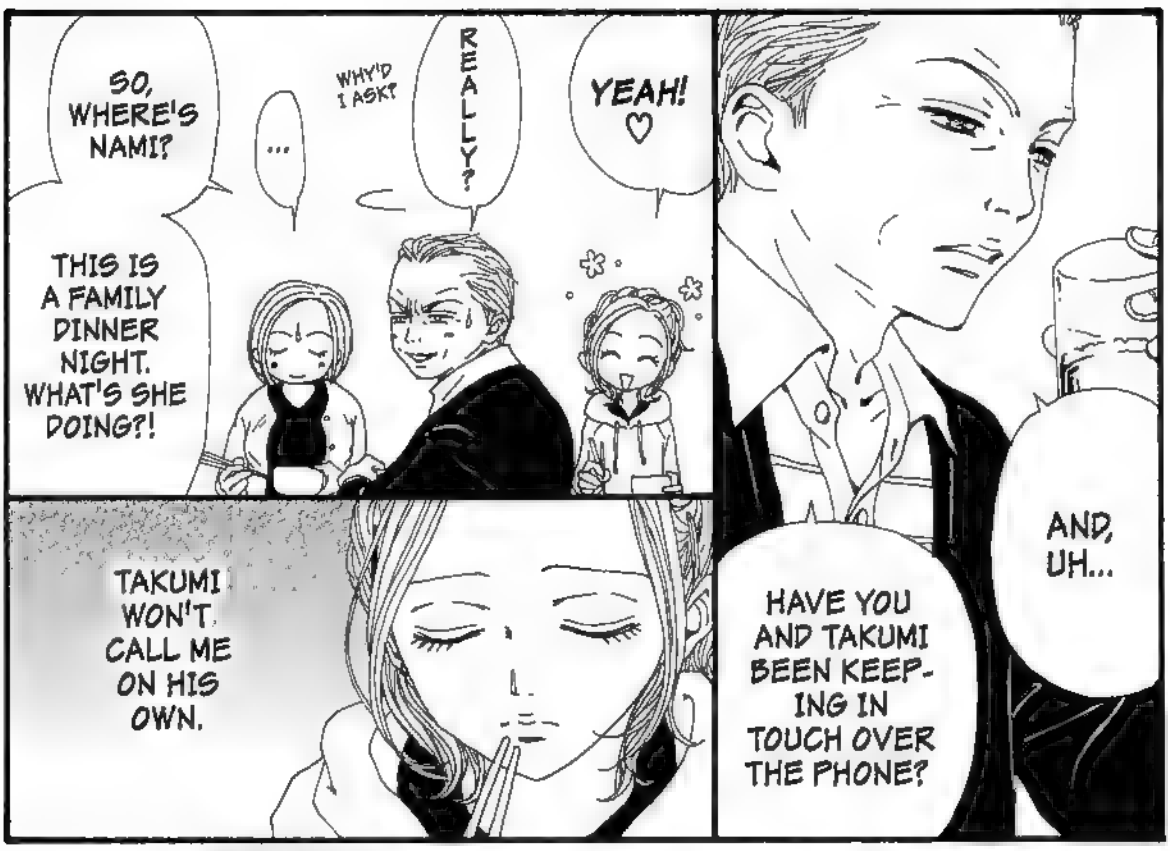
I'M AFRAID SHE'LL SAY SOMETHING THAT'LL HURT NANA, EVEN IF SHE MEANS WELL.
...IS APPROACHING NANA 'CAUSE SHE KNOWS THEY'RE SISTERS?
BUT WHAT IF NANA'S LITTLE SISTER ...
I THINK WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL THAT THEY DON'T GET ANY CLOSER.
YEAH.
BUT NANA REALLY GETS INVOLVED WITH HER FANS, SO...
I UNDER-STAND THAT SHE'S JUST A FAN. THAT'S GOOD.
YEAH.
BUT SHE-
OKAY ...
...
...THEN WHY DID YOU START USING HER SISTER'S NAME?
BUT IF YOU'RE SO OBSESSIVELY CONSIDERATE ABOUT NANA...

I GAVE IN TO A CHILDISH DESIRE PRETENDING TO BE NANA'S YOUNGER SISTER.
I FEEL THAT TOO.
I KNOW...
IT WAS A BAD IDEA.
I'M NOT ACCUSING YOU.
I SEE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST HERE.
IN MY MIND...
...I WAS BRAGGING THAT I KNEW THE MOST ABOUT NANA...
...OUT OF ALL THE FANS.
GO ON...
SO EVEN WHEN THE OTHER FAN GIRLS WERE MEAN TO ME, I DIDN'T CARE.
I STARTED INVESTI-GATING A LOT ABOUT THE REST OF YOU TOO.
I STARTED FOLLOWING YOU GUYS, THINGS GOT WEIRD...
MY CURIOSITY WAS INSATIABLE, AND I GOT CARRIED AWAY.

EVERYONE'S TORN BETWEEN SOME KIND OF FEAR AND DESIRE.
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THINGS IN A COMPLICATED WAY. YOU HAVE YOUR REASONS.
I'M SO SORRY...
WELL ...
SO YOU'RE LIKE THAT TOO, YASU?
OF COURSE.
IF YOU INVESTIGATED US THAT THOROUGHLY, YOU SHOULD KNOW.
WHY EVEN PRETEND I'M NOT?
...
BUT TO BE HONEST, THE MORE I FIND OUT ABOUT YOU, THE MORE OF A MYSTERY YOU ARE.
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK.
EVERYONE THINKS I'M HARD TO UNDERSTAND.
I DON'T TRY TO BE ALOOF OR A LONER.
knock knock

IT'S ALMOST TIME.
OH, YASU? ♡
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL BE OUT SOON. CAN YOU WAIT IN THE CAR?
SORRY.
YES.
WE'LL HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
BUT I DON'T THINK THE GOSSIP MAGS WILL PRINT UNAUTHORIZED ARTICLES ABOUT SHIKAI'S TALENT.
IT'D COST 'EM TOO MUCH TO RISK THAT.
SHE'S GOT TO WATCH OUT FOR THE PAPARAZZI.
BUT IF NANA'S MOTHER'S LIKE THAT, IF WE CONTACT HER, SHE'LL JUST IGNORE US.
YEAH!
WE JUST HAVE TO STAY POSITIVE AND WORK IT!
...BUT THERE ARE SOME ADVAN-TAGES.
I WAS WONDERING WHY WE HAVE TO BELONG TO AN AGENCY LIKE THIS...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO IF THEY GIVE US A HEADS-UP.

...AND I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE GOING OUT.
EVEN BACK AT MY PARENTS' PLACE IT FELT LIKE SEARCH WAS KEEPING AN EYE ON ME...
WHAT ?
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, NANA.
ALL RIGHT DEAR ...
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD BE EATING FOR TWO!
A PREGNANT LADY'S GOTTA EAT FOR TWO.
THEN EAT MORE.
I'M FINE! ♡
TRAPNEST


SO, WHERE'S NAMI?
THIS IS A FAMILY DINNER NIGHT. WHAT'S SHE DOING?!
...
WHY'D I ASK?
REALLY?
YEAH! ♡
TAKUMI WON'T CALL ME ON HIS OWN.
HAVE YOU AND TAKUMI BEEN KEEPING IN TOUCH OVER THE PHONE?
AND, UH...

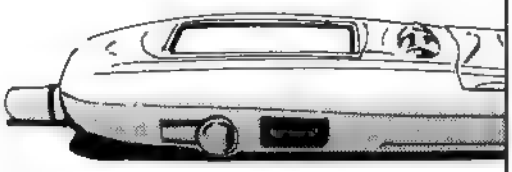
I KNOW THAT.
IT'S NOT THAT HE DOESN'T LOVE ME.
HE'S JUST LIKE THAT.
YOU SACRIFICED YOURSELF TO KEEP HER RELATIONSHIP WITH REN SECRET.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING TOGETHER?
SIT DOWN, DUDE.
...
LIKE FRANCE OR GERMANY!
WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE WHEN WE GET TIME OFF NEXT WEEK?
HEY HEY!
Europe
I WANNA GO TOO.
DO THEY HAVE A GOOD RAMEN SHOP THERE?
COOL!
REALLY?
I'M GOING TO SWEDEN.
BUT WHY?
I'M GOING BY MY-SELF!
N-O.
ME TOO!

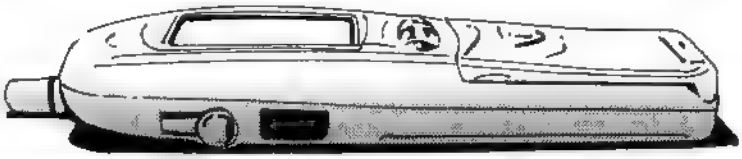
.....
HMMM
I'M GOING WITH THE LOVER IN MY HEART.
DON'T ASK ME.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHY SWEDEN ?
YASU ?
WHO'S THAT ?!
BUT CAN REIRA SPEAK SWEDISH?
IT'S FINE. SHE'S NOT A CHILD.
SHOULD WE LET HER GO ALONE?
SHE'LL NEED AN INTER-PRETER.
SHE'LL BE FINE.
REALLY?
MOST SWEDISH PEOPLE SPEAK ENGLISH TOO.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT!

SPLOSH
BUT IT'S A FACT THEY SPENT THE NIGHT TOGETHER IN REN'S ROOM.
EVEN IF YOU SAY IT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
I COULDN'T BREATHE AND I COULDN'T MOVE, LIKE I WAS PARALYZED.
EVEN IN BED, I WAS CONSUMED WITH UN-EASINESS AND DOUBT.

DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.



MAYBE I SHOULD TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT.



I KEPT WORRYING, UNTIL ANOTHER SLEEPLESS NIGHT CAME TO END.

ring——♪
beep
Incoming email
December 26, 05:48
Nana
Good morning!
I couldn't sleep, so I watched the DVD of the movie you said you really liked. And it put me to sleep!☺
Thanks!♡
Good night!♡

I CAN'T.
I CAN'T JUST DO NOTHING.
WHEN THIS ARTICLE GOES TO PRINT, THAT PHOTO'LL DISAPPEAR.
I DON'T BELIEVE KURATA CAN PROMISE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
SOME-BODY HELP ME!
I'M TELLING YOU. THEY'RE PLAYING YOU.
beep
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.

WHAT ?
THEY WOULDN'T TRY TO TRADE YOU A SCANDAL THAT BIG FOR SOMETHING SO SMALL.
No way.
AND I'M SURE THAT PICTURE WAS PHOTO-SHOPPED.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT SMALL!
DID YOU GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE PHOTO?
IT'S ALL RELA-TIVE.
.....
YEAH.
DID YOU TAKE A REALLY GOOD LOOK AT IT?
.....
WELL, I SAW IT.
THAT'S A DOCTORED PHOTO FOR SURE.
WELL, ALL RIGHT. SEE YOU! ♡
HEY, WAIT!

Sarcastic
YOU SEEM TO BE GOOD AT THINGS LIKE THAT.
DON'T ASK ME.
NOT MY PROBLEM.
WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO BALDY ABOUT IT?
IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED, WHY DON'T YOU ASK SHIN...
...IF HE WAS MAKING OUT WITH REIRA IN PUBLIC SOME-WHERE?
I DON'T THINK HE'S THAT STUPID.
WELL, IF IT'S A FAKE PHOTO, CAN'T YOU STOP THE ARTICLE FROM COMING OUT?
You jerk!
THAT'S IT!
...
click

WELL, SHE SAID THAT'S IT, SO I GUESS THAT'S IT.
WELL WELL.
TAKUMI!♡
...HE COULD AT LEAST GIVE A CRAP, SHOW SOME EMOTION.
EVEN IF THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN DO...
HE SOLD US OUT AS A SCOOP TO SEARCH AND DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME.
HE'S COLD-HEARTED...
TAKUMI'S TOO COLD...
HE'S NOT HUMAN!

.....
I SHOULD'VE CALLED YASU FIRST.
Search by hiragana
7 Ma
8. Ya
BUT NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!
BAM
HEY, BIG SIS!
WHY'S EVERY-ONE ALWAYS MESSING ME UP?!
IF YOU'RE GONNA STAY OUT ALL NIGHT, COME IN QUIETLY!
Just let me call Yasu!
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?
ISN'T IT THE WORST?!
I mean, her parents!

Weekly SEARCH
Nana
Selfishly Abandoned by Her Real Mother!
BLACK STONES
Nana's Eternal Loneliness
The Truth Behind It All
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D COME OUT THIS FAST.
HOW...?
WHAT'S WRONG?
BUT IT WAS FOR SALE.
REALLY?
I BOUGHT IT AT THE CORNER STORE.
WHAT IS THIS?!
BUT SEARCH COMES OUT ON THURSDAYS!
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW...
I THOUGHT I COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT ALL BY MYSELF.

THEY'RE PLAYING YOU.
HOW COULD I BE SO STUPID?
Vintage Auto Z
Weekly SEARCH
Nana
Selfishly Abandoned by Her Real
Graphic ERRR!
TV
Vintage Auto Z
Weekly SEARCH

IT'S ME, KITARO, DUDE!
THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
NO, YOU DIDN'T!
beep
Vintage Auto Z
You scared me!
Kitaroooo, I didn't see you there!
BOO
WERE YOU OUT ALL NIGHT, TAKA-HIRO?
THE HILLS HAVE EYES.
WHO'S THAT?
?
P.S. BY THE WAY, DID YOU TELL MISATO YET THAT I LIKE HER?
WHERE DID YOU SEE HER?!
MRS. YAMAMOTO TOLD ME.
YOU HAVE A FUN, SWEET GIRLFRIEND, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT THE HOTTEST...
YOU LUCKY DOG, TAKA-HIRO.

WHY SHOULD I TELL HER ANY-THING?
'CAUSE MISATO ACTS LIKE I DON'T EVEN EXIST.
IT'S ALWAYS "BLAST" THIS AND "BLAST" THAT...
SHE DOESN'T NOTICE YOU 'CAUSE YOU'RE UNNOTICE-ABLE.
OH, I GET IT...
I JUST SUCK.
I'M JUST A LOSER.
.....
LOOK, I'LL FIX YOU TWO UP TO GO VISIT SOME SHRINE TOGETHER ON NEW YEAR'S. THE REST IS UP TO YOU.
Really, man?!
WELL, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GHOST, KITAROOOOO, SHE'S KNOWN SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE THAT YOU'RE A GOOD GUY.
IT'S KITARO.
I'D RATHER HER BE WITH YOU THAN HAVE HER DROOLING OVER SOME CELEBRITY...
...AND A LADY ONE AT THAT.

Please tell Misato thank you for Yasu's autograph. Don't forget! (^_^)
♡Kayoko♡
ring~♪

ARE YOU MS. UEHARA'S SON?
YEAH?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE?
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?
I'M FROM WOMEN WEEKLY.

NNN
BLACK STONES
NANA

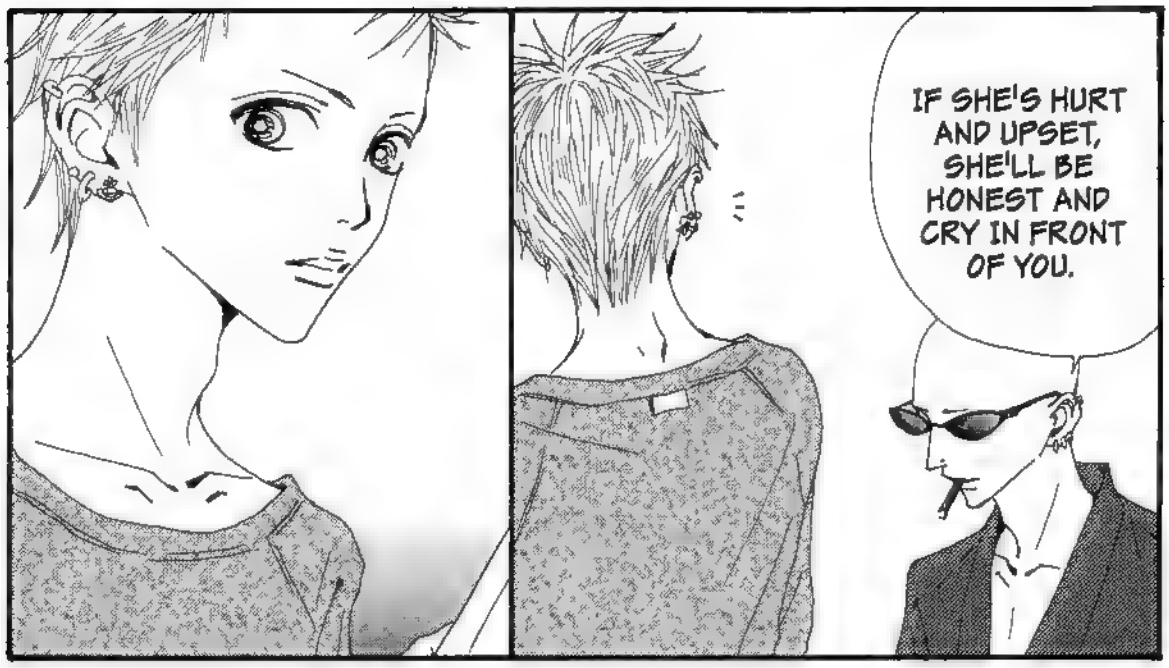
BAM
MISATO ?!
JUMP
DON'T GO OUT-SIDE.
WHAT ?
DON'T OPEN THE CURTAINS.
WHY ? WHAT ?
I'M GOING OUT WITH FUJIMOTO TODAY...
JUST LISTEN TO ME, ALL RIGHT?!

NANA
BUT HE DECIDED IT WOULD BE GOOD PUBLICITY.
SEARCH
The Entire Case Files
Nana Selfishly Abandoned by Her Real Mother!
BLACK STONES
Nana's Eternal Loneliness
The Truth Behind It All
THE PRESIDENT KNEW ABOUT THIS COMING OUT.
...THAT THIS IS WHAT HER REAL MOTHER'S LIKE.
NANA WILL BE REALLY BUMMED TO FIND OUT...

HOW COULD SHE NOT?!
I DON'T THINK NANA WILL CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT IT.
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
I MEAN, IT MIGHT BOTHER YOU A LITTLE.
BUT THAT'S JUST HOW SOMEONE WHO'S ATTACHED TO THEIR PARENTS WOULD FEEL.
.....
SHE'D WANT IT TO GO AWAY.
BUT TO NANA, AT THIS POINT, WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHAT HER MOTHER'S DOING NOW?
WHEN YOU'RE YOUNGER, MAYBE.

I'LL GO WITH YOU!
I'LL GO TOO!
I'LL BE BRAVE AND GO TELL HER.
WELL, THERE'S NO POINT IN US DECIDING HOW SHE'LL FEEL ABOUT IT.
WELL... MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT STILL—
GIMME SOME CIGS!
WHAT A THANK-LESS JOB.
NOBU, YOU SHOULD GO BY YOURSELF.
WHAT ?!
SEAK

I DON'T KNOW HOW NANA WILL FEEL WHEN SHE SEES THE ARTICLE...
...BUT SHE'LL HATE ALL OF US FOR FEELING SORRY FOR HER. THAT'S FOR SURE.
IT'S BEST IF JUST YOU GO.
AGREED.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
BUT WHY ME?!
YOU VOLUN-TEERED!
YOU'RE SO BRAVE! ♡
I RESPECT YOU NOW, NOBU.
I JUST CAN'T DO IT...
I'M SORRY.
YOU GUYS ARE ALL JUST TRICKING ME INTO DOING IT.



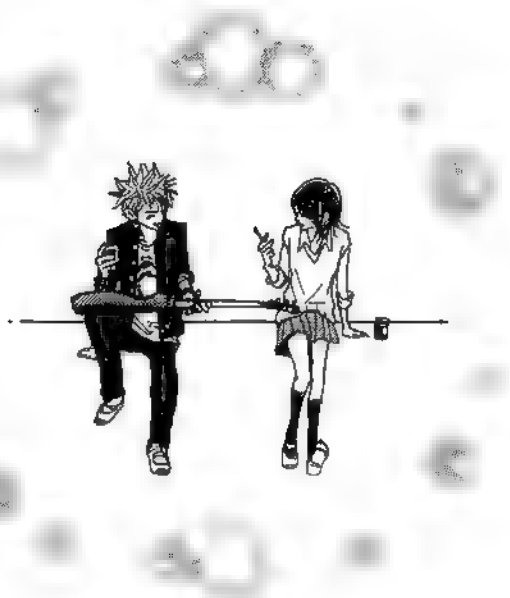
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BETRAY REN...

...THEN DON'T INVADE MY HEART ANYMORE.

EVEN IF THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...
...I WANT TO SHARE YOUR LONELINESS WITH YOU.

PLEASE...

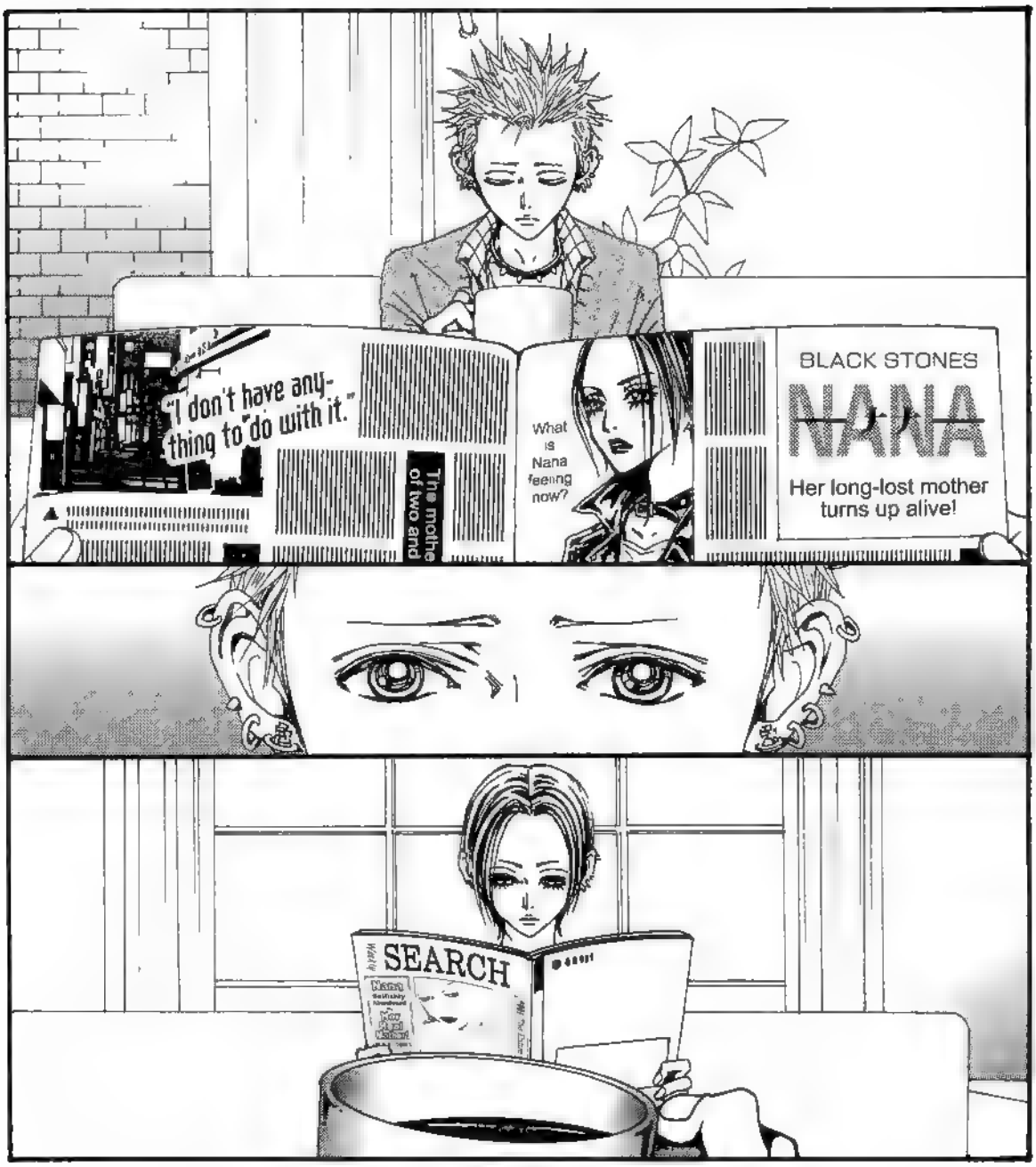
...HOLD MY HAND ONCE MORE.



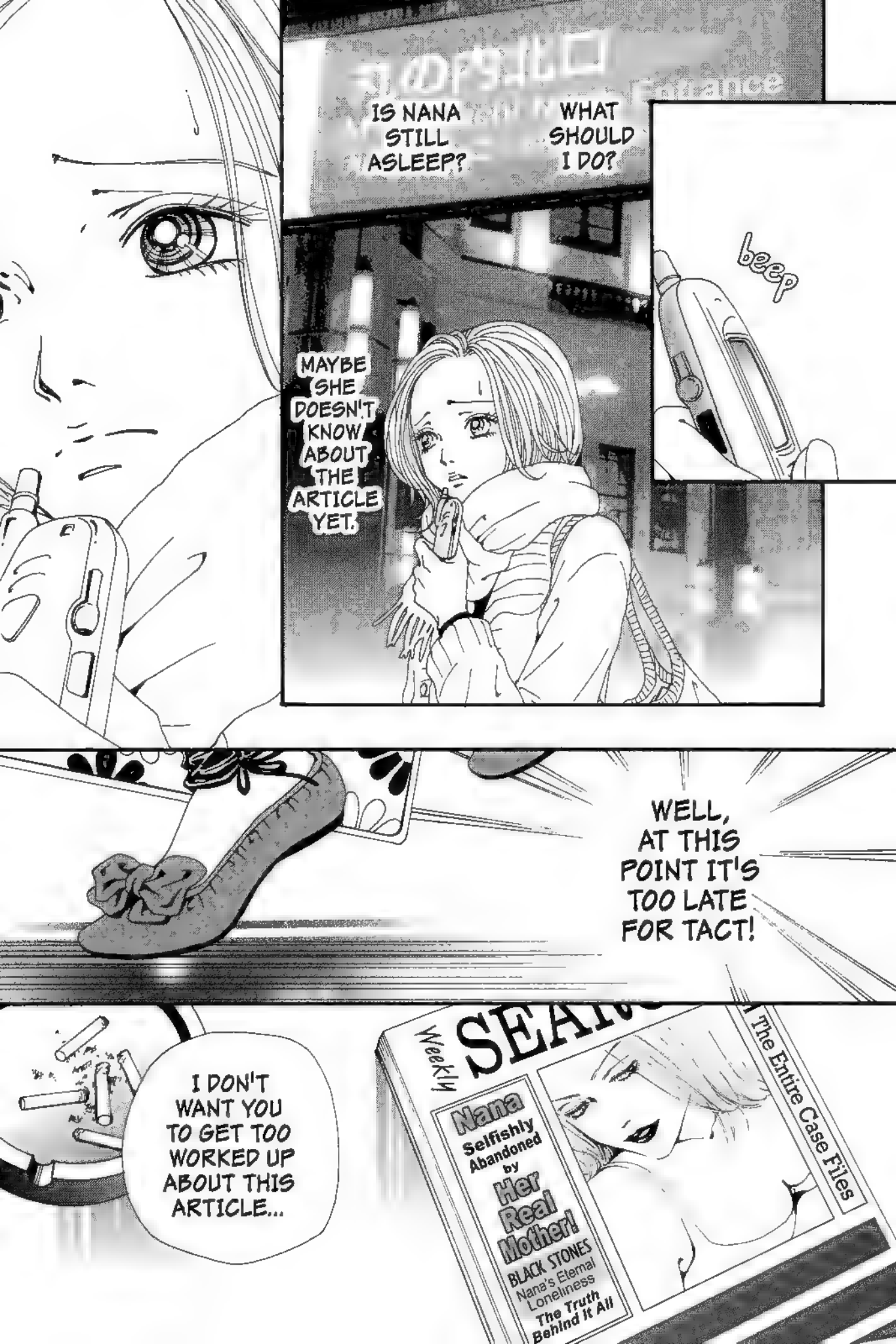
...IT WAS STILL NINE IN THE MORNING
I COULDN'T JUST SIT STILL AND DO NOTHING I RAN OUT OF MY PARENTS' HOUSE WITHOUT EVEN PUTTING MAKEUP ON AND JUMPED ON THE TRAIN WHEN I GOT TO THE STATION IN TOKYO
東京

[Chapter 64]
NANA

601


"I don't have anything to do with it."
The mothe of two and
What is Nana feeling now?
BLACK STONES
NANA
Her long-lost mother turns up alive!
SEARCH

ring ring——♪
YOU HAVE REACHED THE VOICEMAIL OF..


IS NANA STILL ASLEEP?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
beep
MAYBE SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE ARTICLE YET.
WELL, AT THIS POINT IT'S TOO LATE FOR TACT!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET TOO WORKED UP ABOUT THIS ARTICLE...
Weekly
Nana
Selfishly Abandoned by
Her Real Mother!
BLACK STONES
Nana's Eternal Loneliness
The Truth Behind It All
The Entire Case Files

...BUT I CAN SEE WHY YOU WOULD.
YOU CAN'T LET HER KEEP HURTING YOU— A MOTHER WHO DID NOTHING NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU SUFFERED.
YOU HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS WHO ARE LIKE YOUR FAMILY NOW.
YOU CAN FACE US INSTEAD.
Damn it
sigh
YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT A LITTLE RICH BOY LIKE ME LECTURING YOU.

I UNDER-STAND.
UNDER-STAND WHAT?
I KNOW EVERYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT ME AND MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF THIS.♡
.....
WHEN THEY WRITE "MS. M, WHO RUNS A RESTAURANT IN OSAKA..."
...THEY CAN MAKE UP ANY-THING.
YOU HAVE TO WONDER IF SHE EVEN EXISTS.

YOU'RE RIGHT!
SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
JUMP
.....
ding dong——
WHO IS IT?
IT BETTER NOT BE A REPORTER.
NO...
THERE ARE GUARDS AT THE FRONT DOOR.
ding dong——

beep
click
Hi, come in!
.....
NOBU ?

WHO IS IT?
DON'T LET PEOPLE IN WITHOUT ASKING ME.
THIS ISN'T YOUR PLACE.
IT'S HACHI.
SHE CAME 'CAUSE SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
WHAT ?
I DON'T THINK SO!
YOU'RE DREAM-ING!
Pull your-self toge-ther!
SHE'S BACK HOME AT HER PARENTS'!
...
SHE REALLY CAME ALL THE WAY BACK HERE TO SEE ME?
creak
DON'T RUN AWAY, NOBUO!

I'M GOING DOWN TO GET HER!
IF I STAY UP HERE, SHE MIGHT NOT COME UP!
SLAM
.....
WHAT DO I DO?
I DON'T HAVE ANY MAKE-UP ON!
I DIDN'T EVEN BLOW DRY MY HAIR!
I JUST WORE WHAT-EVER!
WELL, I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
dash
.....

THE DOOR SHUT ON ME.
Now what?
DAMN ...

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
sli——de
...
I'M GLAD YOU CAME.
sli——de

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ALL BY MYSELF.
NO ONE ELSE IS HERE?
WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?
THEY SENT ME AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVE. WE WERE AFRAID THAT IF ALL OF US CAME, NANA WOULD JUST PLAY IT COOL.
HOW'S SHE DOING?
SHE HASN'T SNAPPED, SHE'S NOT CRYING. SHE'S AWFULLY CALM.
SHE'S LAUGHING, SAYING THE ARTICLE'S MADE UP, BUT I WONDER IF SHE'S JUST ACTING TOUGH...
I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S ALL MADE UP...
MAYBE THAT'S THE BEST EXPLA-NATION.
.....
I MEAN... I'M SORRY...
I JUST...
drop

LET'S JUST GO UP.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT LEAVING HER ALONE.
YEAH.
OH.
LET ME TAKE THAT.
THANK YOU.
NO... THANK YOU.
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, NANA CAN HANG ON...
...AND I FEEL BETTER TOO.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ON YOUR OWN?

YOU'RE JUST A NOBODY WHO THINKS SHE'S SOMEBODY.

I WON'T LET HER BE ALONE.
I'M GOING TO STICK BY NANA'S SIDE.
WOW!
IS IT A GYM?!
Let's play battledore and shuttlecocks!*
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS PLACE?!
RIIIGHT...
Ahhaha
*A New Year's game, like badminton.
HEY, SHE CAME TO SEE YOU! DON'T TELL HER IT'S A WASTE!
I'M NOT GOING BACK TO MY PARENTS'.
I'M GOING TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S HERE WITH YOU, NANA! ♡
DON'T JUST HANG AROUND 'CAUSE OF THAT.
DON'T WASTE YOUR MONEY ON EXPENSIVE TRAIN RIDES.

WAIT, WE HAVE TO WORK OVER NEW YEAR'S TOO...
YOU DO THAT!
YEAH!
...STAY HERE WITH YOU, NANA, 'TIL REN COMES BACK.
THEN I'LL JUST...
SAY WHAT?!
FLICK

YASU...
.....
YOU LIT THE WRONG END OF YOUR CIGARETTE.
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT NANA, YOU SHOULD'VE GONE TO SEE HER.
IS YOUR FRIEND-SHIP WITH REN MORE IMPOR-TANT?
NO...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE.
OR ARE YOU WORRIED WHAT MYU MIGHT THINK?

NO.
I REALLY DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN ME AND REN.
I CARE ABOUT REN.
I WON'T STEAL ANYONE OR ANYTHING REN CARES ABOUT.
THAT'S IT.
REN'S THAT IMPOR-TANT TO YOU?
EVEN MORE THAN NANA?

TO ME, THE EXACT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ME AND SOMEONE ELSE DOESN'T MATTER MUCH.
I FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT ALL MY FRIENDS.
NO...
I FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT NANA AND MIU.
I THINK PEOPLE ARE BOUND BY TRUST...
BUT PEOPLE WANT TO LABEL EVERY-THING...
...SO I GUESS I SEEM INDIFFERENT IN THAT WAY.

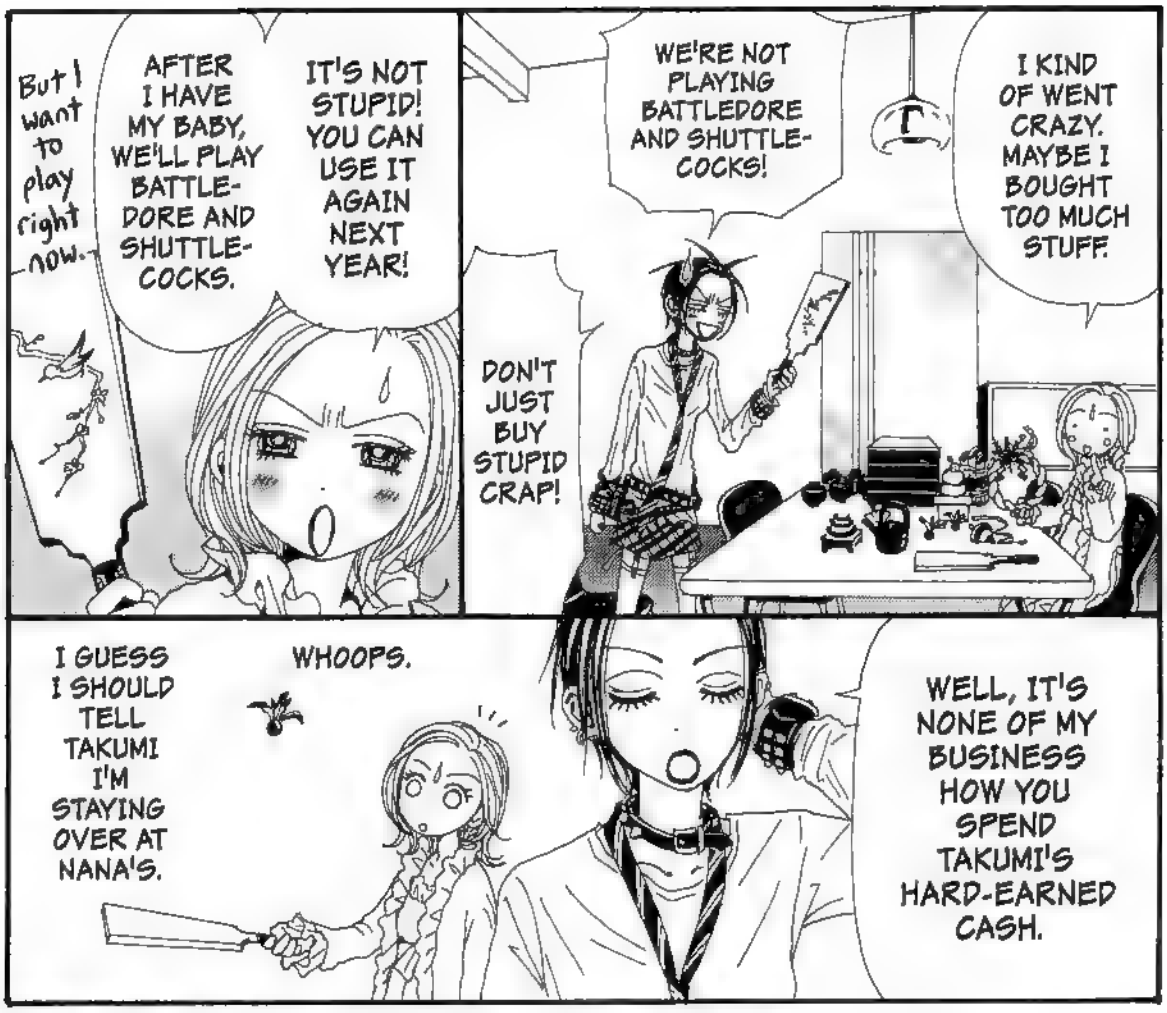
GOOD MORNING, GUYS!
WHAT ?
IT'S ONLY YOU TWO HERE?
WHERE'S MR. MATSUO AND EVERY-ONE?
WHAT A WASTE.
SEE, SHE'S DOING JUST FINE.
THEY'RE HAVING LUNCH IN THE PRACTICE SPACE.
OH...
I'm NOT some damn race HORSE!
Hey!
ALL RIGHT.
PAY UP, DUDE!
NO REASON.
WHY SHOULDN'T I BE?

ALL RIGHT, SO WHERE'S MATSUO?!
HE'S EATING LUNCH.
.....
I WOULD PAY EVERYTHING I GOT FOR YOU TO BE FINE.
THEN LET'S PRAC-TICE!
WE HAVE TO KILL IF WE'RE GOING TO ROCK THESE BIG MUSIC HALLS.
WOW.
GOOD FOR HER.
SHE'S REALLY ON A ROLL.
UH OH.
NANA'S ON FIRE.
TANUKI ?!
HEY, TANUKI!
OH!
MR. KAWA-NO!
Hello!♡

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO EMBARRASS YOURSELF.
...TO LET ME PLAY GUITAR ON STAGE SOME-TIMES!
YOU HAVE TO TELL MATSUO ...
THE AUDIENCE CARES MORE ABOUT STAGE PRESENCE THAN TECHNICAL ABILITY ANYWAYS.
PLAY IF YOU WANT TO.
OH, DADDY!
...
HACHIKO RUSHED IN ON THE TRAIN FROM HER PARENTS' TODAY TO SEE HER.♡
SHE'S OKAY.
IS SHE REALLY ALL RIGHT?
SHE SEEMS A LITTLE TOO HIGH ON LIFE, LIKE SHE'S FAKING IT.
WELL, ALL RIGHT.

Arrowhead
Healthy Option
DRIED COD
ROCK LOBSTER
THEY GOT SO MUCH GREAT STUFF OUT FOR NEW YEAR'S! ♡
AND WHAT'S THAT?! THIS IS SO COOL!

I KNOW!
I'LL MAKE OSECHI* FOR EVERYONE, SINCE THEY'LL BE PRACTICING WITHOUT A BREAK!
SHIN'S PROBABLY NEVER HAD IT BEFORE!
*Traditional food eaten during the First three days of New Year's.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME MAKING NEW YEAR'S FOOD...
All right!
...BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE THE BEST STACK BOXES* IN ALL OF JAPAN!
*Osechi is served in stacked boxes.
GASP
Yay~♫
THAT MEANS I HAVE TO GET A SET OF STACK BOXES TOO! ♡
POOF
WHAT IS ALL THIS?


But I want to play right now.
AFTER I HAVE MY BABY, WE'LL PLAY BATTLE-DORE AND SHUTTLE-COCKS.
IT'S NOT STUPID! YOU CAN USE IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!
WE'RE NOT PLAYING BATTLEDORE AND SHUTTLE-COCKS!
I KIND OF WENT CRAZY. MAYBE I BOUGHT TOO MUCH STUFF.
DON'T JUST BUY STUPID CRAP!
I GUESS I SHOULD TELL TAKUMI I'M STAYING OVER AT NANA'S.
WHOOPS.
WELL, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS HOW YOU SPEND TAKUMI'S HARD-EARNED CASH.

HELLO, DARLING... ♡
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE BUSY RECORDING AN ALBUM OR SOMETHING?!
DON'T CALL ME EVERY SINGLE DAY FOR NO REASON!

Sigh

SO BY THE WAY, IS SEARCH ON YOUR ASS AGAIN?
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BUSY IS OUR WORKAHOLIC DICTATOR.
IT'S REN! ♡
...
WELL, NO. NOT RIGHT NOW.
.....
slam
REN CALLS HER EVERY SINGLE DAY.
I'M SO JEALOUS.
creak
HOW'D YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
...IT GIVES MY EXISTENCE MEANING, HOWEVER SMALL...
BUT WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER ...
TAKUMI DOESN'T CARE WHERE I'M SPENDING NEW YEAR'S.
WHAT-EVER.
whap

SO YOU CAN LIVE WITH HACHIKO LIKE BEFORE.
WELL, THAT'S GOOD.
...WHEN I'M NOT AROUND?
BUT WHAT AM I WORTH TO TAKUMI...
I'M GLAD.
YEAH ...
WELL...
EVERYONE'S SO WORRIED, SO I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING...
...BUT I REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT ARTICLE.
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE BEING HONEST.
.....
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?

I KNOW, BUT...
NO ONE EVER SAID SHE WAS DEAD.
IF SHE'S ALIVE I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SHE HAS KIDS AND A NEW FAMILY.
I'VE KNOWN MY MOTHER WAS SELF-ISH EVER SINCE SHE ABANDONED ME.
...I REALLY HATE HAVING WHAT I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO TOUCH THE MOST MADE PUBLIC.
BUT...
MISATO'S SO WORRIED, SHE BURST INTO TEARS WHEN SHE SAW ME.
BUT I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN.
NOBU'S ACTING SO DESPERATE, IT'S RIDICULOUS. HE'S EVEN HANGING OUT WITH HACHI.
YEAH.

NO MATTER HOW FAR APART THEY ARE, NANA AND REN HAVE A STRONG BOND.
THERE'S A LOT THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
SO I'M ALL RIGHT. ♡
Ha ha
OH, REALLY ?
No way.
AND WITH REIRA?
whap
TAKUMI MIGHT MESS AROUND, BUT REN WOULDN'T DO THAT.
SO I'LL JUST STOP CARING WHAT SEARCH SAYS.
ring
ring
HELLO?
IT'S ME.
I NEED YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR.
▲ Located in a lively shopping district, Ms. M's restaurant is quite popular

WHAT IS IT?
AS LONG AS NANA'S ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH.
I CAN LET GO OF WHAT HAPPENED IN OSAKA.
beep

THE SQUIRREL RAN AWAY FROM THE BIG BAD WOLF!
.....
SCUTTLE
Oh, now!
REIRA?
A NEARBY STRANGER INSTEAD OF A FARAWAY LOVER?
GOOD.
IF YOU CATCH A COLD, THE GODS WILL BE ANGRY.
IT'S COLD. LET'S GO BACK.
SO YOU WERE TALKING TO NANA AGAIN?
HOW'S SHE DOING?

.....
ACTUALLY, IT'S A "FARAWAY RELATIVE."
WHAT-EVER. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHAT WOULD GOING TO SWEDEN DO FOR ME NOW?

WHY SWEDEN?
IT'S NOT FAIR.
TELL ME. YOU KNOW ALL MY SECRETS.
THE TOWN WHERE SHIN WAS BORN AND GREW UP.
SEE WHAT?
I JUST WANTED TO SEE IT.

I THOUGHT MAYBE THEN...
..I COULD UNDERSTAND HIM BETTER.
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO ENDED IT.
IT'S BETTER IF WE PRETEND NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM NOW.

THERE WERE SO MANY THINGS I WANTED TO TALK TO HER ABOUT...
THAT NIGHT I SLEPT IN NANA'S BED WITH HER. IT'D BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'D DONE THAT.
...THAT I JUST FELL RIGHT TO SLEEP.
BUT I FELT SO WARM AND COMFORT-ABLE...

The New Musical Artist Award goes to...
Japan Music Awards 2001
And now for the winner...
DUNDUN

They won!
Eeek!
...AND THEY WEREN'T IN TOWN TO APPEAR ON ANY MUSIC SHOWS THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE.
TRAPNEST TURNED DOWN AWARDS SHOW INVITATIONS EVERY YEAR...

BLACK STONES!

New Year's music show on NHK.

AND THEIR SALES WERE ABOUT TO SURPASS BLAST'S.
...TRAP-NEST ALSO RELEASED A SINGLE THAT DAY...
BUT STILL ...
THIS WAS YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE. BUT OH NO...
YOU SCREWED UP THE LYRICS AGAIN.

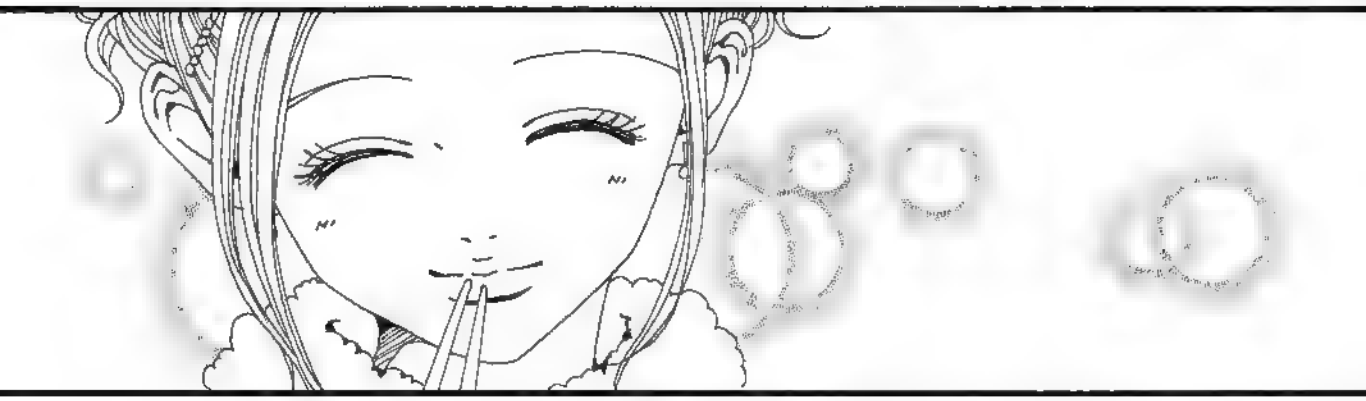
WE CAN EAT SOME OZONI* AFTER THE COUNTDOWN DURING THE NEXT SHOW. ♡
*New Year's soup with rice cakes (mochi) etc.
From: Shion
Sent: 2001, December 31st
To: Yasu
HEY, I'M STARV-ING!
Vrooomm
MY CHANCE TO SHINE IS WHEN WE GO ON TOUR!
CHICK
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU'RE REALLY REALLY SICK.
PLEASE.
I DON'T WANT TO EAT ANY-THING.
WHAT'S OZONI?

Subject: Report 1

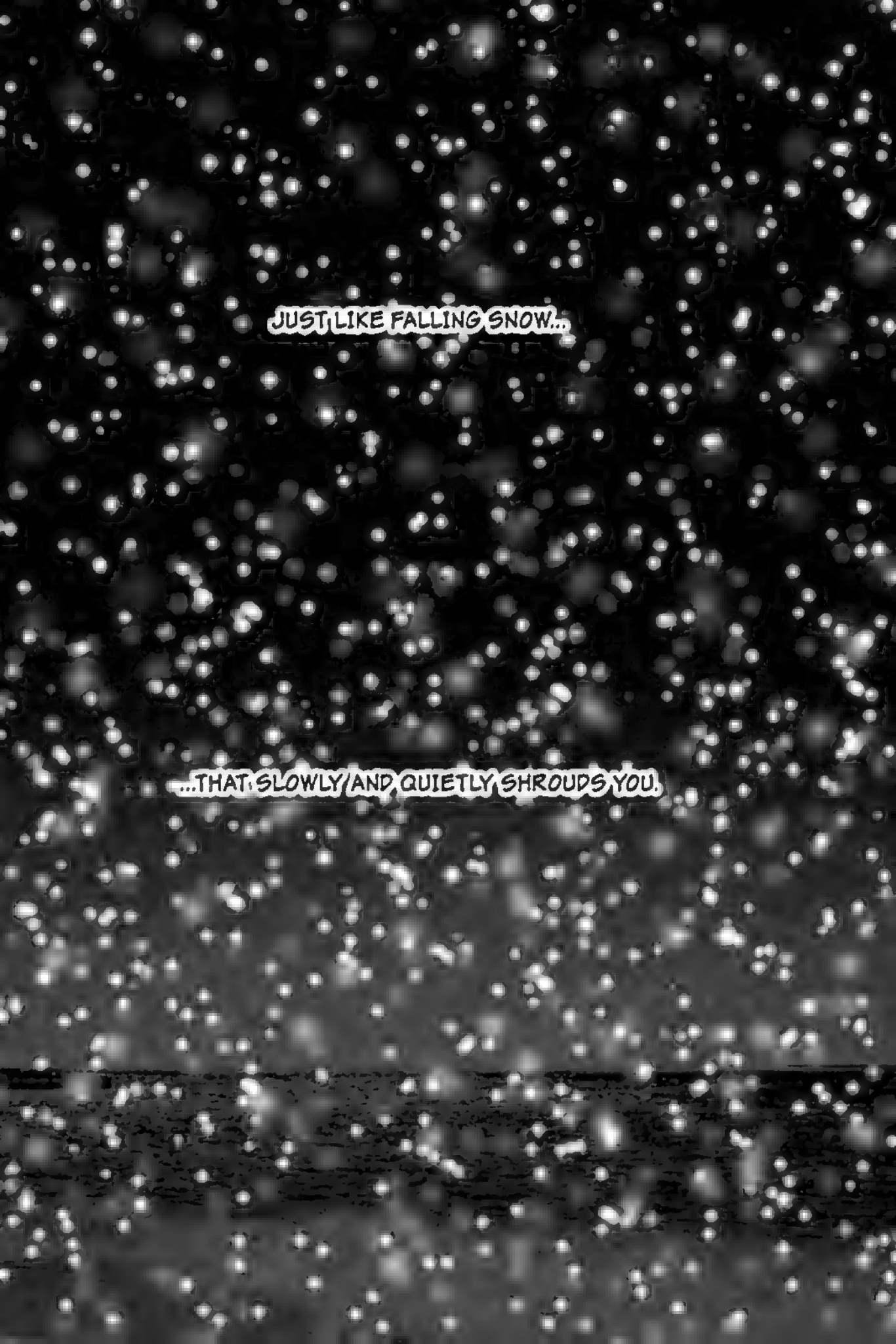
The Uehara family closed up their restaurant, and no one answers the door. Misato won't answer her cell phone either. But since it's New Year's, maybe they went off on a family trip. No worries. Leave it to me.

I'll stick around for a while and see what's up. I'll be in touch.

PREPARING TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S WITH YOU...
...FILLED ME WITH HOPE.
HEY, NANA...



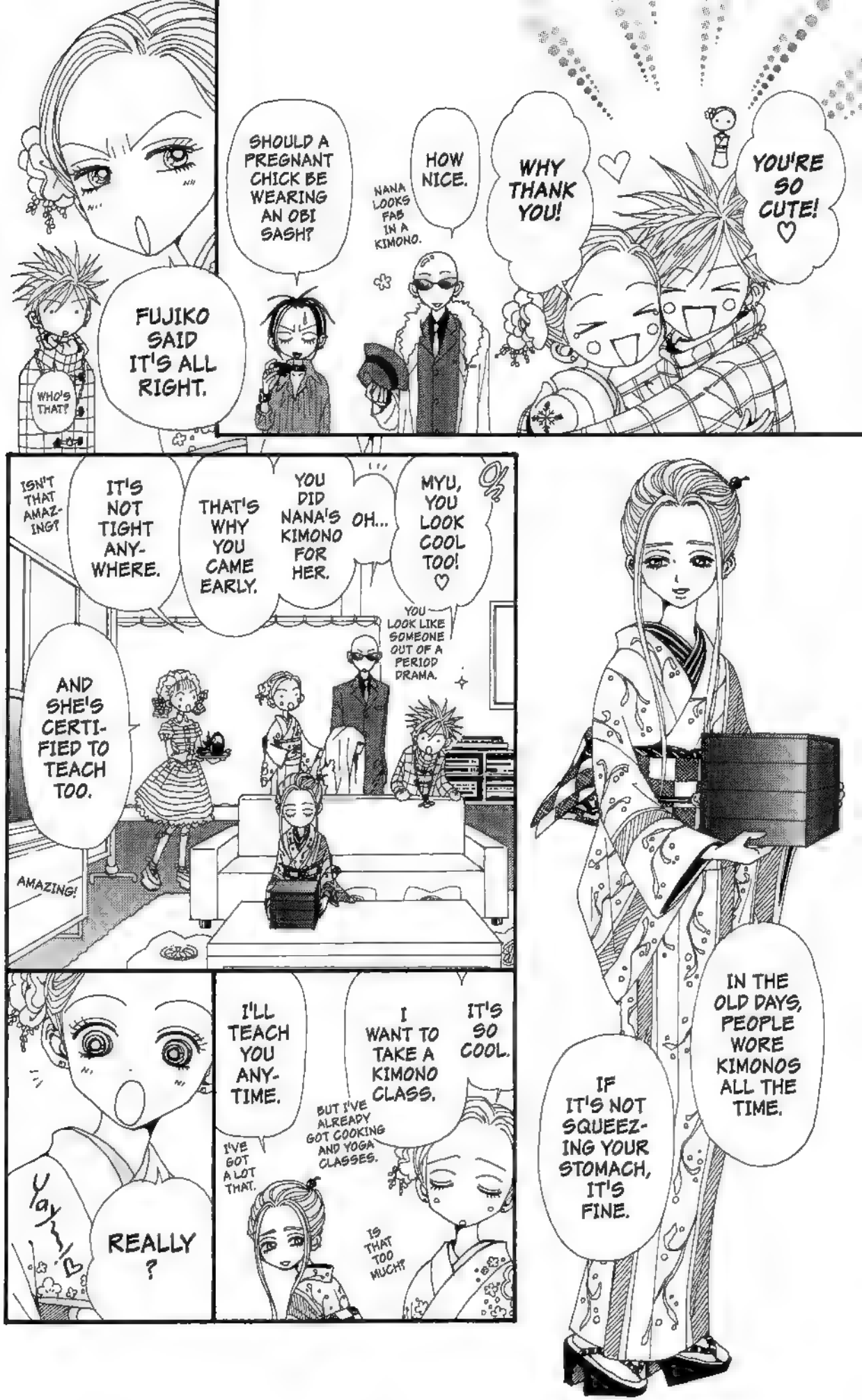
BUT THE COUNTDOWN TO TRAGEDY...
...HAD ALREADY BEGUN.

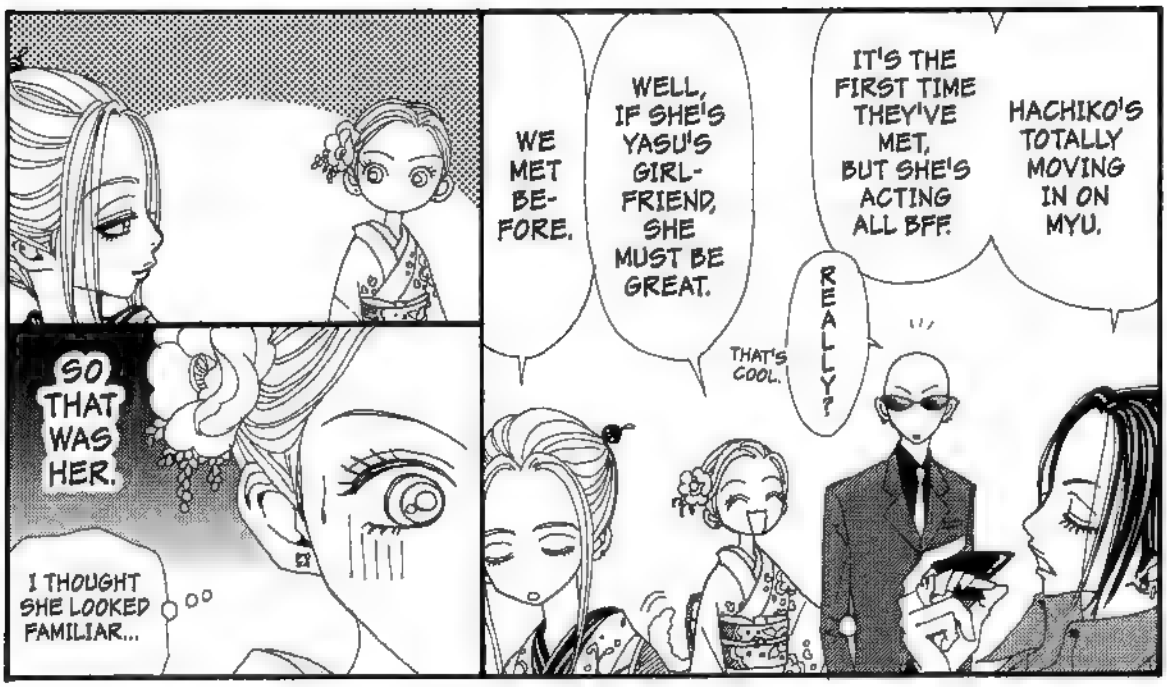

JUST LIKE FALLING SNOW...
...THAT SLOWLY AND QUIETLY SHROUDS YOU.

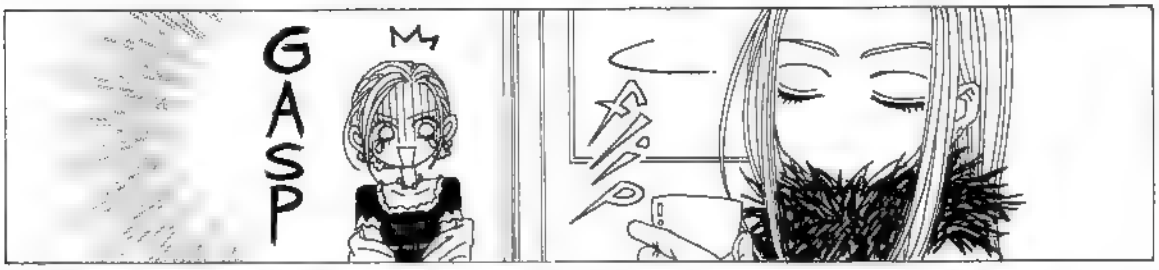
MY GOAL FOR 2002 IS...
NANA ICHINOSE.
I DON'T EVEN NEED TO SAY THAT.
TO HAVE A CHEER-FUL, HAPPY FAMILY NO MATTER WHAT.
TO HAVE A HEALTHY BABY.
...TO NOT GAIN TOO MUCH WEIGHT (ESPE-CIALLY AROUND MY FACE)!

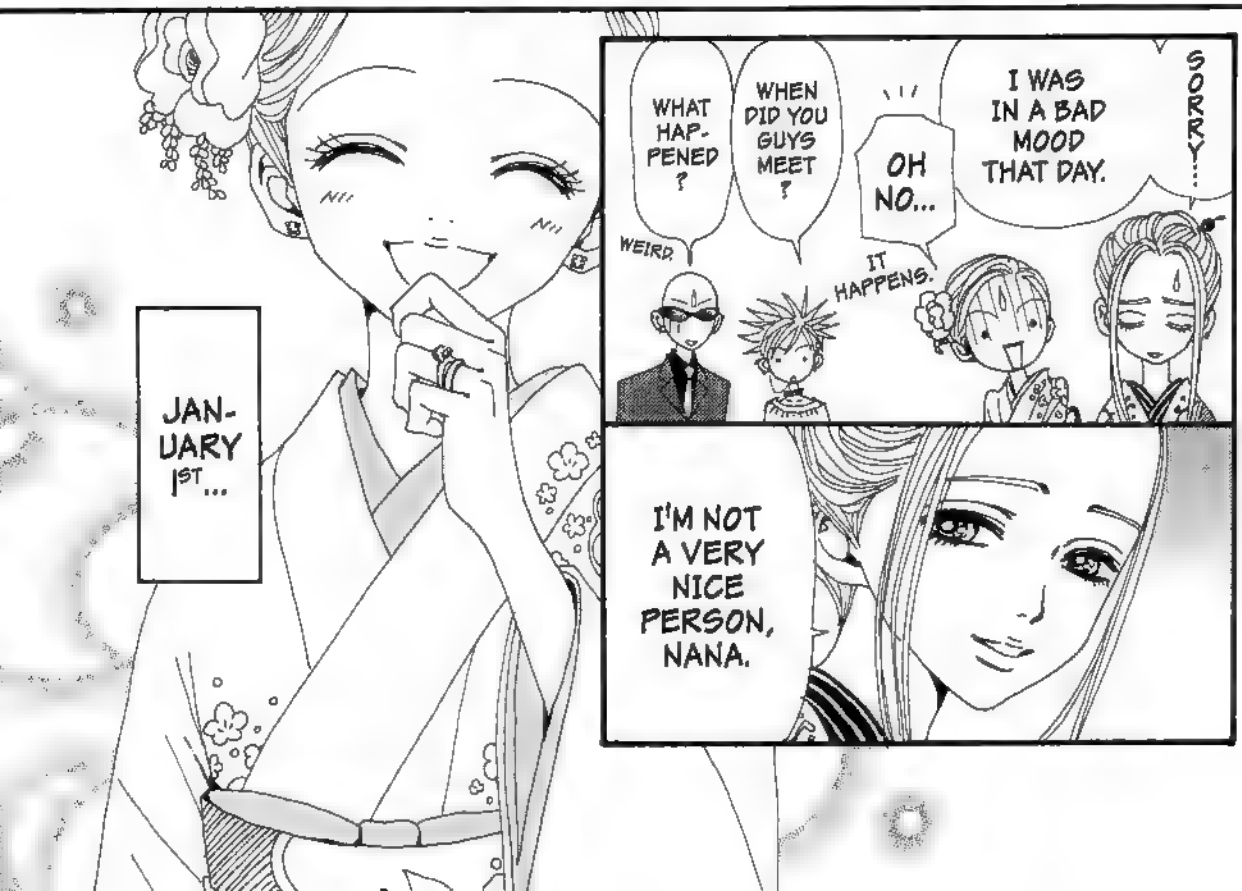
[Chapter 68]
NANA

PLEASE SAY I'M CUTE.
I'M CUTE, RIGHT?
DON'T I LOOK CUTE?
HAPPY NEW YEAR!


FUJIKO SAID IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WHO'S THAT?
SHOULD A PREGNANT CHICK BE WEARING AN OBI SASH?
NANA LOOKS FAB IN A KIMONO.
HOW NICE.
WHY THANK YOU!
YOU'RE SO CUTE! ♡
ISN'T THAT AMAZING?
IT'S NOT TIGHT ANYWHERE.
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME EARLY.
YOU DID NANA'S KIMONO FOR HER.
OH...
MYU, YOU LOOK COOL TOO! ♡
YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE OUT OF A PERIOD DRAMA.
AND SHE'S CERTIFIED TO TEACH TOO.
AMAZING!
IN THE OLD DAYS, PEOPLE WORE KIMONOS ALL THE TIME.
IF IT'S NOT SQUEEZING YOUR STOMACH, IT'S FINE.
I'LL TEACH YOU ANYTIME.
I WANT TO TAKE A KIMONO CLASS.
IT'S SO COOL.
I'VE GOT A LOT THAT.
BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT COOKING AND YOGA CLASSES.
IS THAT TOO MUCH?
Yay
REALLY ?


SO THAT WAS HER.
I THOUGHT SHE LOOKED FAMILIAR...
WE MET BE-FORE.
WELL, IF SHE'S YASU'S GIRL-FRIEND, SHE MUST BE GREAT.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE MET, BUT SHE'S ACTING ALL BFF.
HACHIKO'S TOTALLY MOVING IN ON MYU.
THAT'S COOL.
REALLY?


GASP


JAN-UARY 1ST...
WHAT HAP-PENED?
WHEN DID YOU GUYS MEET?
OH NO...
I WAS IN A BAD MOOD THAT DAY.
SORRY...
WEIRD.
IT HAPPENS.
I'M NOT A VERY NICE PERSON, NANA.

...BUT THEN THAT SITU-ATION GOT NIPPED IN THE BUD...
I THOUGHT NOBU MIGHT SHOW UP...
BUT THEY HAVE MORE WORK TONIGHT.
THEY FINISHED THEIR BUSINESS EARLY IN THE MORNING AND CAME OVER IN THE AFTER-NOON.
...AND I WAS ACTUALLY RELIEVED.
Snore
Happy New Year
WHY DO YOU ONLY EAT WHEN HACHI COOKS?
HE HASN'T EATEN AT ALL LATELY.
AND HE'S STILL GROW-ING.
LET'S TAKE HIM TO A DOCTOR AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.
ONLY THEN ?
YUM! ♡
ONONI?
"Zo" also means elephant.

I DON'T WANT TO GROW ANYMORE.
...
I'M NOT EATING ON PURPOSE.
I'M FINE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
SHIN, ARE YOU SICK?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH NO.
You're already too skinny!
ARE YOU ON A DIET?!
WHAT THE ...?
JANU-ARY 4TH...
TOTAL PETER PAN SYN-DROME!
YOU MEAN, LIKE, HE DOESN'T WANT TO GROW UP?
JUN CAME BACK FROM HER FOLKS', SO I WENT TO SEE HER.

BUT TAKUMI FITS THE BILL MORE THAN SHIN DOES.
REALLY?
YEAH?
YOU'RE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
I THOUGHT SO TOO AND LOOKED IT UP.
YEAH, LIKE HOW HE'S A WORKA-HOLIC AND DITCHES HIS WIFE!
.....
BUT THEN THERE'S THINGS THAT DON'T FIT AT ALL, SO WHAT-EVER...
WELL, EVERYONE HAS SOME SYMPTOM THAT COULD FIT ANY SYNDROME.
MEN ARE ALL JUST LITTLE BOYS IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
I WONDER WHAT HIS DISEASE IS.
.....
BUT KYOSUKE ISN'T LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE LUCKY, JUN.
munch

UH, CAN WE NOT TALK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW?
YOU'RE MAKING ME UNCOMFORTABLE.
LIKE, JUST THE OTHER DAY—
KYOSUKE JUST ACTS THAT WAY IN FRONT OF YOU!
...AFTER HE AND REIRA BROKE UP, AND I WAS WORRIED.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHIN WOULD TRY TOO HARD TO ACT OLDER...
WELL, EVERY MARRIAGE HAS ITS SHARE OF PROBLEMS.
OH...
WE'RE NOT MARRIED!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT TAKUMI...
I'M JUST GLAD IT'S NOT US.♡
SO NOW WHY DOESN'T HE WANNA GROW UP?
GOOD MORNING.
OH...
THAT MAKES ME EVEN MORE WORRIED.

I'M NOT COUGHING ANYMORE.
I'M STARTING TO FEEL BETTER ...
HOW ARE YOU FEEL-ING?
BUT SHE STILL HAS A FEVER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WORK. YOU'RE SICK!
IT'LL TAKE YOU EVEN LONGER TO GET BETTER.
BUT ...
I'M SORRY YOU GUYS...
HEY, REN...
IS TAKUMI MAD AT ME?

MORN-ING, REN! ♡
TAKU-MI...
OH, HEY!
HAVE YOU GONE TO SEE REIRA EVEN ONCE?
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT HER?
I WANTED TO GO IN HER PLACE.
I FEEL REALLY SORRY FOR HER. SHE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO GO TO SWEDEN.
HE'S RIGHT, TAKUMI.
YOU NEED TO TELL HER TO REST AND NOT WORRY ABOUT RECORDING.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
IT'S JUST A COLD.
STOP YOUR BAB-BLING.
Shut up!
Sorry!
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?

WHY ARE YOUR PANTIES ALL UP IN A WAD LATELY...
...WHEN IT'S ANYTHING ABOUT REIRA?
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE FAR FROM HOME, YOU SHOULDN'T GO OUT JUST THE TWO OF YOU.
YOU HELPED HER CATCH A COLD.
AND YOU DON'T EVEN CARE.
WELL, REIRA DOES, REALLY.
I KNOW I SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, BUT I CAN'T.
WELL, IF YOU THINK THAT, JUST DO IT!
OR HAVE YOU GOTTEN THAT STUPID ?!
TAKUMI!
BUT REIRA DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

WHY'RE YOU SUCH A HARD-ASS...
...WHEN IT COMES TO REIRA?
REN.
TAKUMI'S LIKE THAT WITH EVERY-ONE.
SAD BUT TRUE.
WELL, IT DOESN'T SEEM MALICIOUS WITH EVERYONE ELSE.
BUT WITH REIRA, HE OBVIOUSLY DOES IT INTENTION-ALLY.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
God
SHUT UP AL-READY.
I JUST HAVE TO GO SEE HER, RIGHT?
YOU MUST REALLY LIKE REIRA...

NANA
I'LL TAKE OVER, SO YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK.
MARI, YOU'VE BEEN WITH HER THIS WHOLE TIME?
I CAME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE, AND SHE'S ASLEEP.
BUT WHAT ABOUT WORK, TAKUMI?
SORRY ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S NOT DESPERATE TIMES YET. I WAS JUST GETTING OCD ABOUT EVERY-THING.
SHE'S BURNING UP.
....
ALL RIGHT.
THANK YOU.

SQUEEZE
UGH...
.....

REIRA DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
WHY'RE YOU SUCH A...

TAKUMI...
...I LOVE YOU.

HEY, REN...
TO ME...
BEING THE LEAD SINGER OF TRAPNEST WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SHIN.
I STILL LIKE HIM, BUT I MADE A DECISION AND I DON'T REGRET IT.
IT'S JUST HARD 'CAUSE I HURT SHIN WITH MY SELFISH-NESS.

SO DON'T TOUCH ME ANYMORE.
EVEN WHEN WE'RE IN ENGLAND, YOU DON'T KNOW WHO'S WATCHING.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
BUT YOU...
DID YOU REALLY WANT...
...TO BE THE SINGER OF JAPAN'S MOST POPULAR BAND?

WELL, PERSONALLY...
...I DON'T CARE HOW POPULAR WE ARE, AS LONG AS I CAN SING GOOD SONGS. BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO SAY THAT NOW.
NO MATTER WHO YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH...
...YOU JUST COULDN'T GIVE UP...
...BEING WITH TAKUMI, RIGHT?

IF YOU LOVE HIM THAT MUCH, JUST KEEP ON LOVING HIM, EVEN IF IT HURTS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

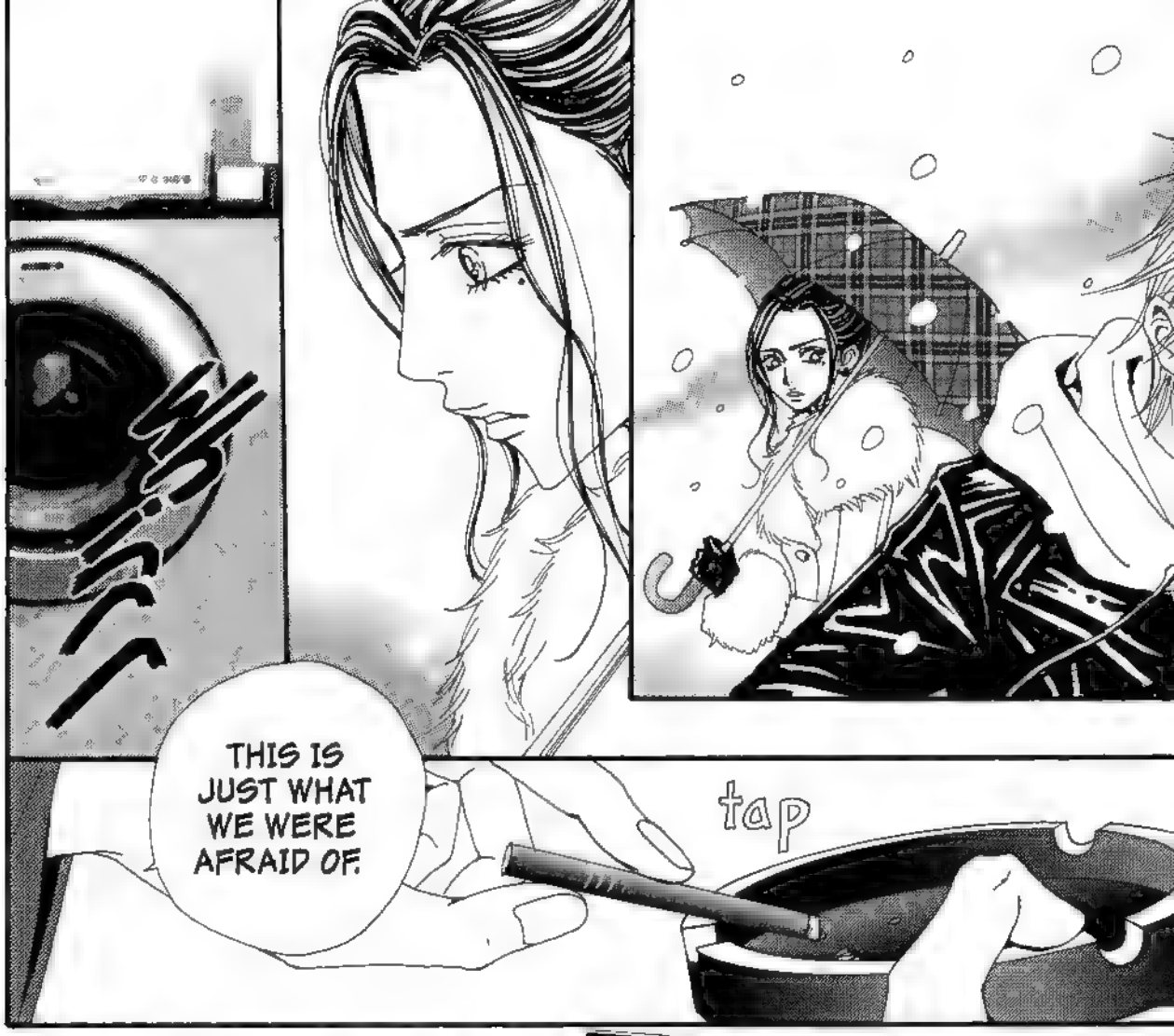
EVEN WHEN NANA DOESN'T ACT HOW I WANT HER TO...
...EVEN IF SHE ENDS UP WITH SOME OTHER GUY...

...WHO WILL ALWAYS CARE ABOUT HER.

...I WANT TO BE A SENSITIVE PERSON...

JANU-
ARY
6TH.
SNOW WAS FORECAST THROUGH-OUT ALL OF JAPAN.
BUT IT DIDN'T SNOW IN TOKYO...
...AND NANA SEEMED MORE DISAP-POINTED THAN I WAS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STALKING SOMEONE IN FRONT OF THEIR HOUSE?!

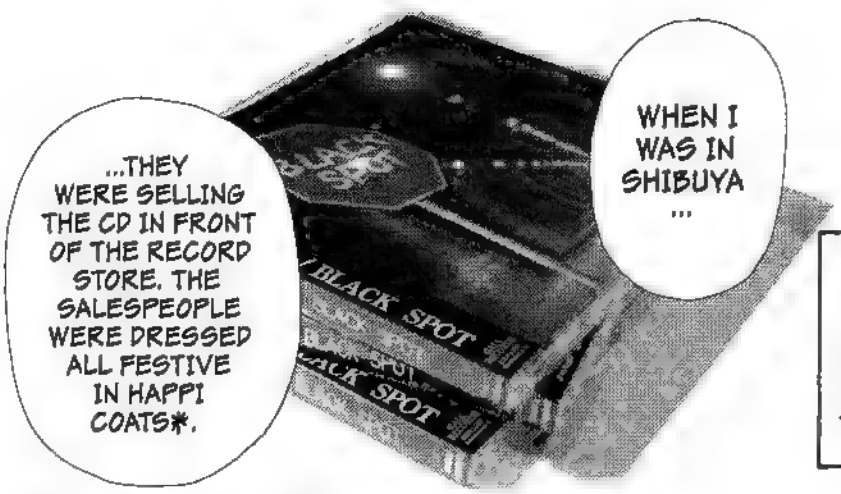
ARE YOU MRS. UEHARA'S SON?
NOPE.
THE UEHARAS HAVE BEEN OUT OF TOWN SINCE THE END OF DECEMBER.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?
WHAT MAGA-ZINE ARE YOU FROM?
NOPE.
WE CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE!
WE GOT WEIRD RUMORS GOING 'ROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD 'CAUSE OF YOU JERKS STALKING US!
JUST LEAVE US ALONE!


THIS IS JUST WHAT WE WERE AFRAID OF.
tap

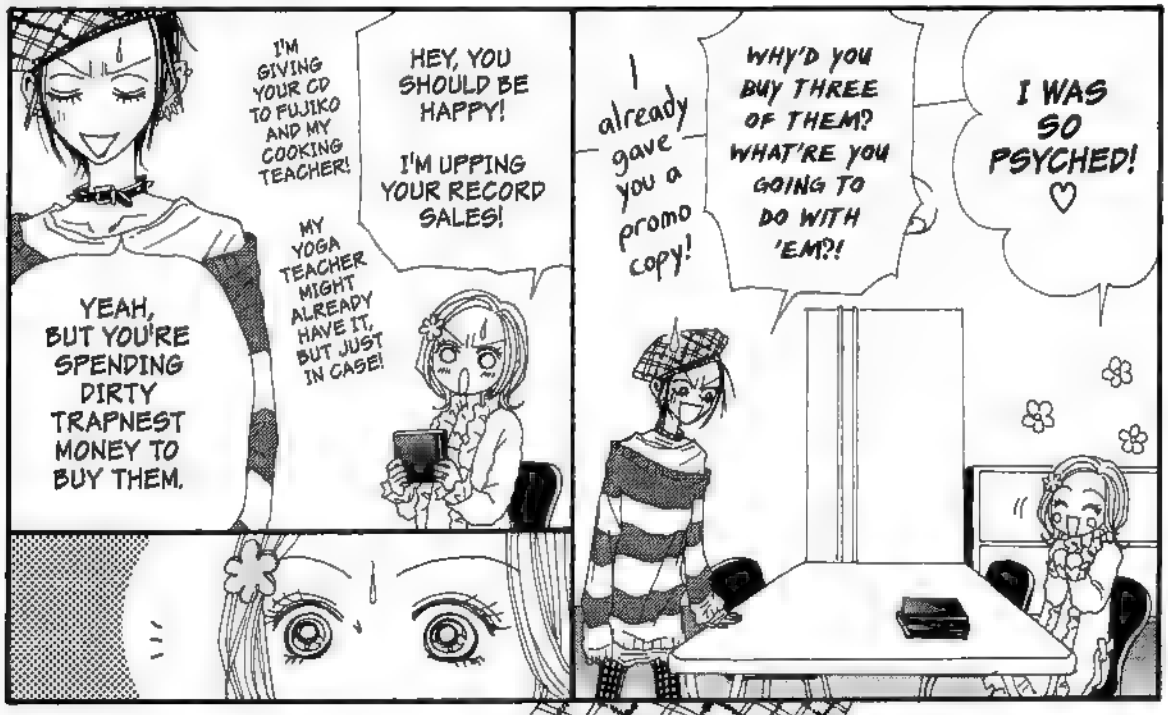
THEY DESCRIBED THE FAMILY AND PRINTED A PHOTO OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. PEOPLE ARE TALKING.
AND MISATO LOOKS JUST LIKE NANA.
THE RESTAU-RANT'S THEIR LIVELIHOOD. THIS IS BAD FOR BUSI-NESS.
I HOPE THE FAMILY AT LEAST GETS ALONG WITH EACH OTHER.
BUT MISATO DOESN'T REALLY GET ALONG WITH MISUZU...
...AND I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT NANA AT THIS POINT.

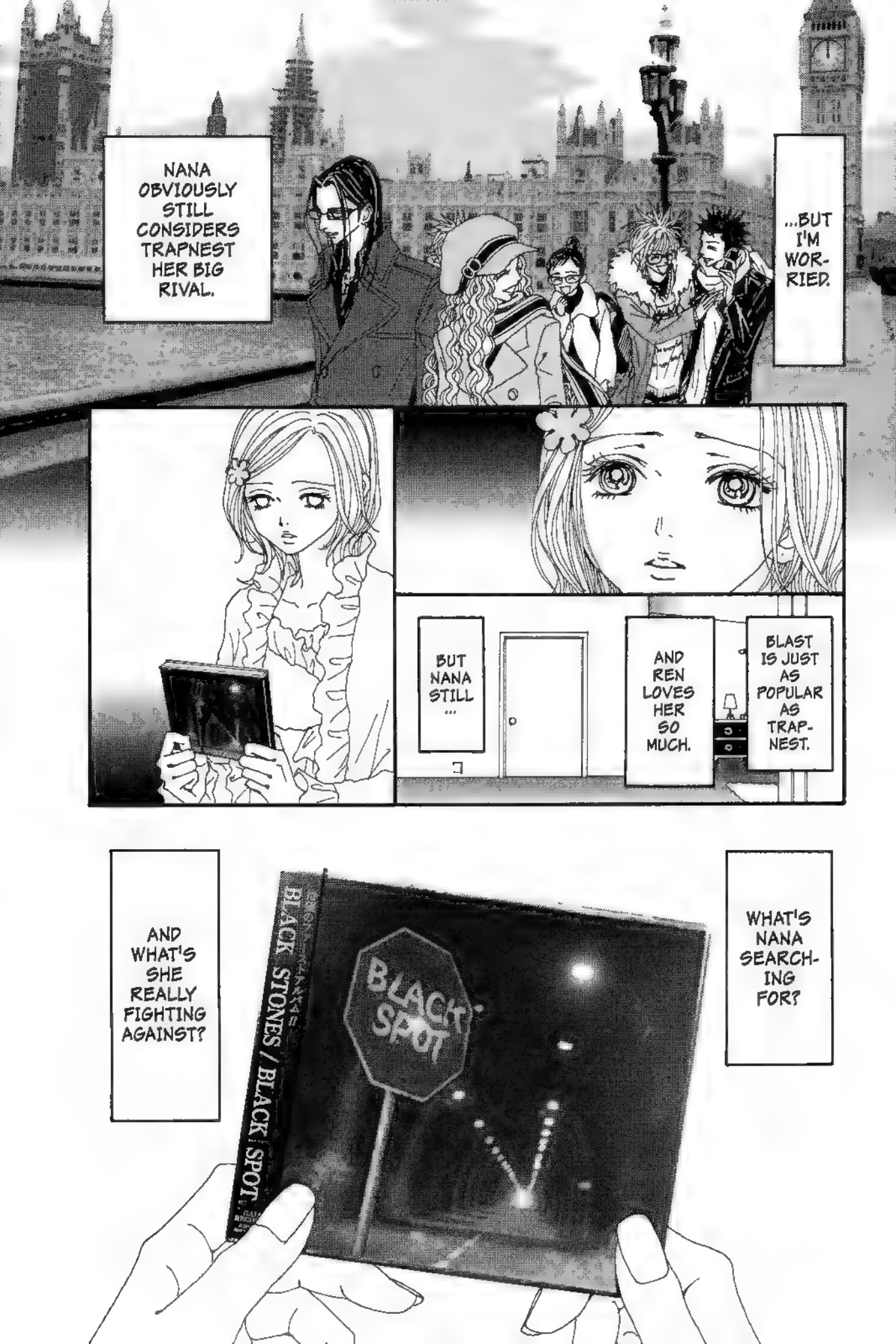
Zero In
NANA MIGHT NOT THINK IT'S THAT BIG OF A DEAL IF SHE FINDS OUT A TOTAL STRANGER IS HER YOUNGER SISTER...
YOU KNOW THAT RUMORS SPREAD IMMEDIATELY AMONG YOUR GROUPIES.
...I THINK SHE'LL GET UPSET.
BUT IF IT'S SOMEONE SHE'S MET BEFORE ...
MAKE SURE THE RUMORS DON'T GET TO NANA.
tap
YES MA'AM!
LET ALL THE GROUPIES KNOW, AND MAKE SURE THEY FOLLOW OUR ORDERS.

I THINK SHE'S REALLY FREAKING OUT.
BUT WHAT ABOUT MISATO?
THAT MIGHT BE GOOD FOR NANA...
THEY'LL ALL DO WHAT WE SAY, FOR NANA. WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.
THE STREET DATE FOR BLAST'S ALBUM. I WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS.
JANUARY 9TH.
BLACK STONES
First Album 「BLACK SPOT」
2002.1.9 on sale!
ON SALE NOW!
BLACK SPOT!
BLACK STONES' DEBUT ALBUM!


BLACK SPOT
BLACK SPOT
...THEY WERE SELLING THE CD IN FRONT OF THE RECORD STORE. THE SALESPEOPLE WERE DRESSED ALL FESTIVE IN HAPPI COATS*.
WHEN I WAS IN SHIBUYA ...
NANA CAME UP WITH THE TITLE.
A "BLACK SPOT" IS A PLACE WHERE ACCIDENTS TEND TO HAPPEN.

*Kimono-like coat worn at festivals.


I'M GIVING YOUR CD TO FUJIKO AND MY COOKING TEACHER!
HEY, YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY!
I'M UPPING YOUR RECORD SALES!
MY YOGA TEACHER MIGHT ALREADY HAVE IT, BUT JUST IN CASE!
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE SPENDING DIRTY TRAPNEST MONEY TO BUY THEM.
I already gave you a promo copy!
WHY'D YOU BUY THREE OF THEM? WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WITH 'EM?!
I WAS SO PSYCHED! ♡

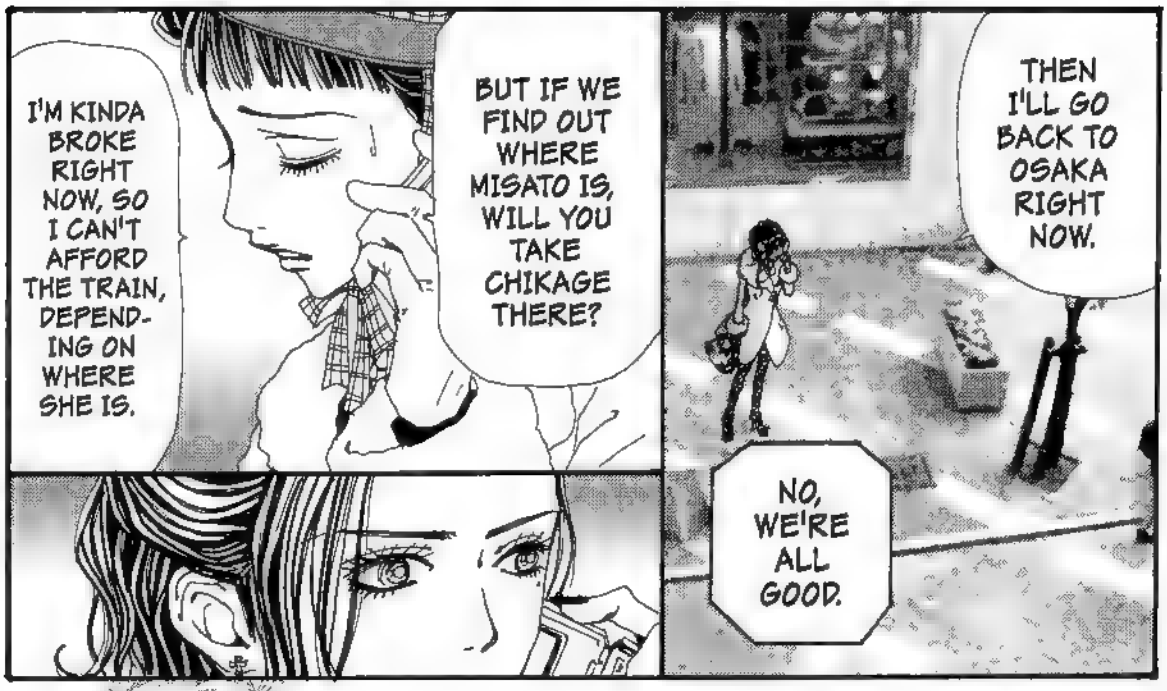

NANA OBVIOUSLY STILL CONSIDERS TRAPNEST HER BIG RIVAL.
...BUT I'M WOR-RIED.
BUT NANA STILL ...
AND REN LOVES HER SO MUCH.
BLAST IS JUST AS POPULAR AS TRAP-NEST.
AND WHAT'S SHE REALLY FIGHTING AGAINST?
BLACK STONES / BLACK SPOT
BLACK SPOT
WHAT'S NANA SEARCH-ING FOR?

NANA PROBABLY ...
...HAS SELF-CONFIDENCE ISSUES.
Antique
WHAT ?
JANU-ARY 13TH.
BUT SHE ALWAYS SEEMS TOTALLY CONFI-DENT TO ME.
3000円
MYU TOOK ME TO THE ANTIQUE MARKET TO BUY A PRACTICE KIMONO.
THAT'S SO CUTE! ♡
THE SLEEVES ARE JUST THE RIGHT LENGTH.
WHAT ABOUT THIS?

I APPRECIATED THAT SHE KEPT HER WORD.
THEN THE SASH BAND HAS TO BE FLAT.
YEAH?
IF IT'S A ROUNDED ONE, IT WON'T GO THROUGH THE OBI-DOME.
I WANT AN OBI-DOME* TOO!♡
THESE ARE CUTE! ♡
I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST BEING NICE WHEN SHE SAID SHE'D TEACH ME HOW TO WEAR A KIMONO.

*An ornamental clasp to hold the obi in place.

HE SEEMS TO BE CRASHING AT HIS GIRL-FRIEND'S, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE REST OF THE FAMILY'S DOING.
BUT CHIKAGE KNOWS MISATO'S BROTHER, SO WE'LL GO THERE TONIGHT AND ASK WHERE MISATO IS.
MISATO'S OLDER BROTHER HAS BEEN GOING TO WORK SINCE NEW YEAR'S.
SHION!


I'M KINDA BROKE RIGHT NOW, SO I CAN'T AFFORD THE TRAIN, DEPEND-ING ON WHERE SHE IS.
BUT IF WE FIND OUT WHERE MISATO IS, WILL YOU TAKE CHIKAGE THERE?
THEN I'LL GO BACK TO OSAKA RIGHT NOW.
NO, WE'RE ALL GOOD.

BUT WHAT ABOUT MISATO?

THE PAPARAZZI WERE STALKING OUR HOUSE, SO WE HID OUT OVER THERE FOR A WHILE.
MY DAD'S YOUNGER SISTER AND HER HUSBAND LIVE THERE.
YEAH ...
SO MISATO'S STILL IN OKAYAMA?
BUT I HAVE TO WORK, SO I CAME BACK.
WHY SHOULD SHE HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL TO GET HARASSED WHEN SHE'S HAVING A HARD TIME?
WHAT'S ALL RIGHT?
BUT SHE SAID NO. SHE WON'T LISTEN TO ME.
SHE'S GOT SCHOOL, SO I TOLD HER TO JUST COME BACK WITH ME.
YOU'RE SO...
GET HARASSED ?!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE OUT FOREVER.
YES.
I'M SURE. PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT IT AT SCHOOL TOO, RIGHT?

BUT IF SHE HAS A CLASSMATE WHO STICKS BY HER SIDE, MAYBE SHE'LL WANT TO GO.♡
YEAH YEAH.
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
THEY CAN'T HARASS MISATO!
EMBAR-RASSED ?
...SHE'S EMBARRASSED 'CAUSE YOU'RE A NANA FAN TOO.
... OH... THAT'S 'CAUSE ...
...WON'T EVEN ANSWER MY PHONE CALLS.
BUT MISA-TO...
...THAT SHE CAN NEVER FORGIVE MOM.
SHE KEEPS SAYING POOR NANA...
IS YOUR MOTHER IN OKAYAMA TOO?

THEN WHERE IS SHE?
WHAT ?
NO...
BUT DAD'S THERE.
THIS IS REALLY EMBAR-RASSING TO SAY...
...
SHOULD I TELL THEM?
YEAH, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

...BUT SHE TOOK OFF.

LET'S TAKE A BREAK.
THAT'S GOOD.
I DON'T THINK NANA GOES WITH TROPICAL ISLANDS OR SOFT DRINKS.
I WANNA GO TOO!
WHAT?!
GUAM?
SHE'S NOT REFRESHING AT ALL.
It's not fair!
No fair!
Heh heh
Ha ha!
JUST FOR THREE DAYS, TO SHOOT SOME SOFT DRINK COMMERCIAL.
YEP. ♡
I PUT MY LOVE IN THIS COFFEE.
HEY, WHERE'S YASU?
Whoever just laughed better get out of here!
WHAT?!

...AS YOU CAN IMAGINE.
HER HUSBAND'S IN A DAZE...
THE MORNING AFTER SEARCH HIT THE STANDS...
...SHE DISAPPEARED. SHE JUST LEFT A NOTE SAYING "I'M SORRY."
TRUE ...
...BUT UNLESS SHE'S A MINOR OR INVOLVED IN A CRIME, THEY WON'T REALLY LOOK FOR HER.
YEAH, THEY DID...
DID THEY FILE A MISSING PERSON REPORT ?
NOW I'M TOTALLY WORRIED ABOUT HER.
NO PROB-LEM.
I MEAN, I DIDN'T KNOW AT THE TIME, BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO GOT MISATO AND NANA TO MEET.
THANKS FOR DOING ALL THIS.
ALL RIGHT ...
I'LL GO TO OKAYAMA SOON.
I'LL GIVE YOU AN UPDATE THEN.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
AND NOW YOU'RE THE FAN CLUB PREZ.
YOU'VE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.
BUT YOU'RE DOING EVERY-THING YOU CAN.
CLICK
JANU-ARY 14TH...
.....
SEE YA.
I'D HELP OR KILL PEOPLE JUST FOR YOU, HON.
OH NO?

JANUARY 14TH (MONDAY), WORKING HOLIDAY

BREAKFAST: OMELET, WARM VEGGIE SALAD, BREAD, YOGHURT

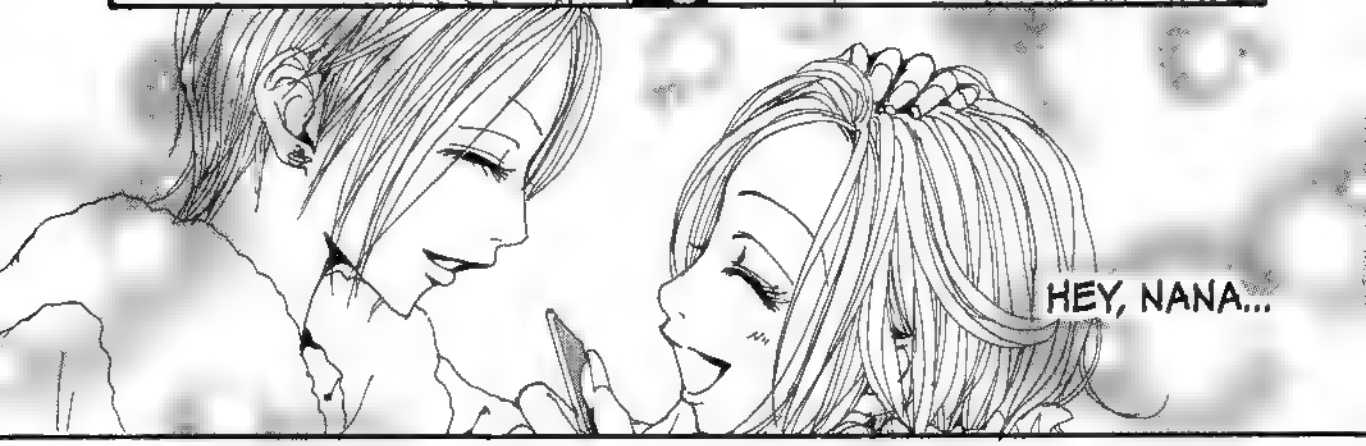
LUNCH: UDON NOODLES W/ WILD VEGGIES

DINNER: MISO SOUP W/ DAIKON & SEAWEED, BOILED BEANS, GRILLED MACKEREL W/ MISO, RICE

NANA LEAVES FOR GUAM TOMORROW. I'LL MISS HER, BUT I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE COMMERCIAL! I WONDER WHEN TAKUMI WILL REMEMBER ME AND CALL ME... LEAVING ME HERE ALL ALONE... THE PRINCESS IN MY TUMMY'S GRUMBLING, YA KNOW? JL JF

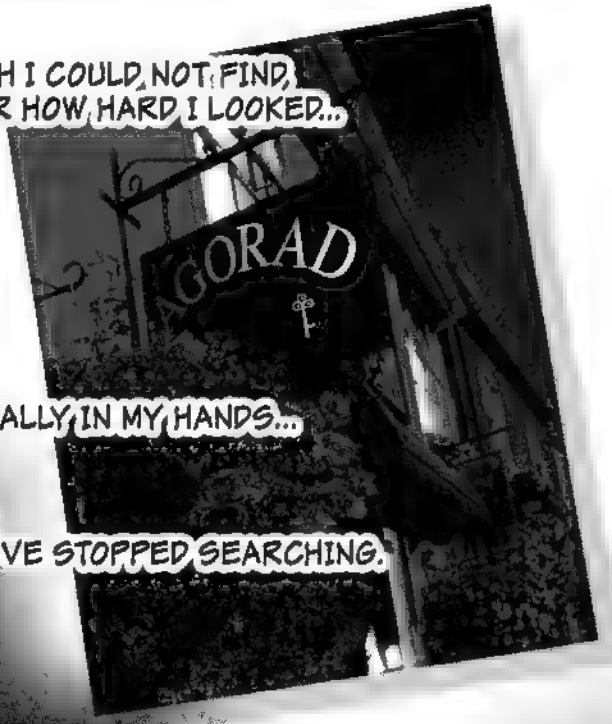
It's top secret!
DON'T YOU HAVE A SPARE ROOM WHERE I CAN WRITE MY DIARY IN PRIVATE?!
2002
HEY, IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN JUST LEAVE!
WHAT-CHA WRITIN' ?
th-thump
AND THEN I THOUGHT IF I WRITE WHAT'S GOING ON EACH DAY, IT'D BE FUN TO READ IN THE FUTURE.♡
I STARTED WRITING IT ON JANUARY 1ST, TO PLAN MY MEALS.
YOU ALREADY TALK TO YOURSELF ENOUGH.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?
SO WHY ARE YOU WRITING A DIARY?
OH, BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU SEEN MY PASSPORT?
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I'VE BEEN WRITING FOR TWO WEEKS NOW!
I BET YOU'LL LAST THREE DAYS.
HMPH ...
2002

GOOD JOB, HACHIKO!
Yes!
I FOUND IT! ♡
WELL, I JUST GOT IT RECENTLY AND HID IT AWAY SOMEWHERE.
BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE.
Omigod, YOU IDIOT!
HOW DID YOU LOSE SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING?!



THE KEY TO YOUR WHEREABOUTS...

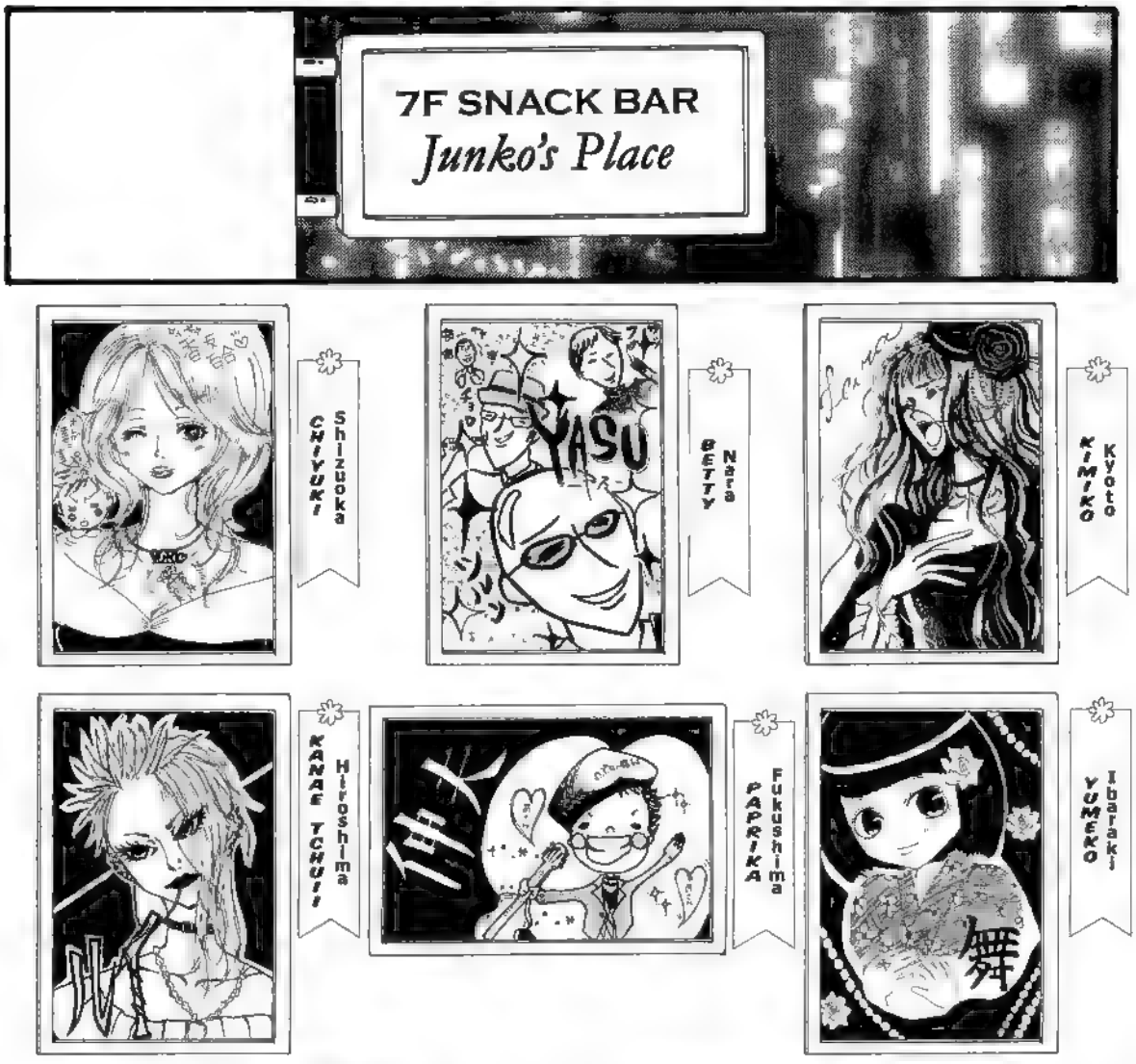
...WHICH I COULD NOT FIND, NO MATTER HOW HARD I LOOKED...



...IS FINALLY IN MY HANDS...

...NOW THAT I'VE STOPPED SEARCHING.

WILL YOU LET ME...


7F SNACK BAR
Junko's Place
CHIYUKI Shizuoka
BETTY Nara
KIMIKO Kyoto
KANAE TCHUI! Hiroshima
PAPRIKA Fukushima
YUMEKO Ibaraki
YASU
舞
ARE THEY FATAL ERRORS THAT HAVE TO BE CORRECTED FOR THE SERIES TO GO ON?!
WE GOT MISTAKES IN VOL. 16 TOO...
HEY, JUNKO ...
NANA

YOU'RE RIGHT.
THEN I'M OUTTA HERE!
THE MANGAKA CAN JUST LIVE IN DISGRACE WITHOUT CORREC-TIONS.
WE ONLY GOT TWO PAGES THIS TIME.
THEN FORGET IT.
WELL, NOT REALLY...
.....
THIS TIME IT'S FOR THE DS!
The Family Times
"Junko's Place" Seeking Part-Time Workers!!
A THIRD NANA GAME'S COMING OUT!
HEY, NANA!
How many different gaming consoles do we have to buy?!
First Game = Playstation 2
Second Game = Playstation Portable
Third Game = DS
Yay!♪
I CAN'T WAIT!
IT LOOKS COOL!
...
BALD!!
IS ANYONE EVER GOING TO RESCUE US!
HOW MANY CENTURIES HAVE PASSED?!
What times ?!
I THINK KONAMI IS ACTUALLY BEING NICE..
YOU HAVE TO KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES.
THEY CAN'T HELP IT.
ME?
WHO?
Nana c/o Shojo Beat · VIZ Media · PO Box 77010 · San Francisco, CA 94133

☆DON'T WORRY.♡ NOBU AND MISATO (ALIAS) WILL COME TO YOUR RESCUE... I THINK.

Cookie Extra! Side Story!

"Cookie Fresh" does "TAKUMI."

Starting when he and Reira met and all about his family. All that and now this?! Get to know the man who Nana fears and dubs "the Demon Lord." Super-long story (compared to others we've done). 70 pages of blunt and outrageous tales! Get psyched!!

Available with this tankobon. ♡ Go to the magazine store now!!

☆Shueisha☆Internet Shopping Plaza

mekke !

http://mekke.shueisha.co.jp

Hachi dog + Nana cat mascots for sale! ♡

Updated continuously! Official Website:
"NANA online" Check it out for the latest info!!
http://www.s-nana.com/

Check out "Mobile NANA" too! ♡
http://m.s-nana.com/

The Family Times

March 15, 2007

News Flash!!

NANA2 Movie DVD ☆ out June 22nd!

(Released by) SEDIC International, Shueisha • (Distributed by) Toho

TV Anime NANA season finale March 28th! Will there be a sequel?!

"NANA BEST"
CD + DVD ¥3800 (tax incl.)
CD ¥2500 (tax incl.) cutting edge

"OLIVIA inspi' REIRA (TRAPNEST)"
¥3000 (tax incl.) cutting edge

"ANNA TSUCHIYA inspi' NANA (BLACK STONES)"
¥3000 (tax incl.) MAD PRAY RECORDS

Aside from that burning question, CD albums will come out one after another to wrap things up. They contain all the opening and closing themes, songs played in the anime, and songs that have never been released!! Each album contains a bonus DVD! ♡

"Have You Seen Me?"

Misato Uehara (alias)

Nobuo Terashima

Nana Osaki

Nana Komatsu

NANA

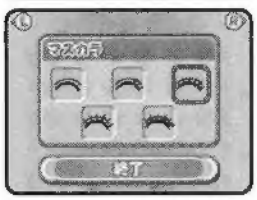
ナナ

Seeking Stage Crew!

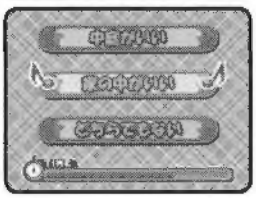
〜No experience required〜

NANA Finally Available for Nintendo DS!

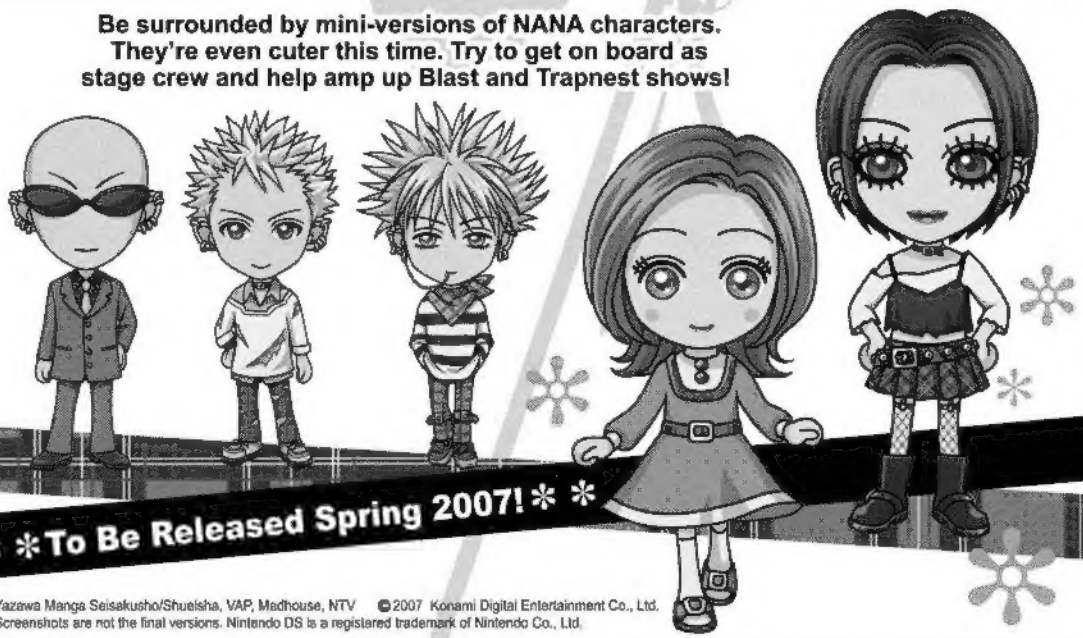
An ordinary girl like you. A showbiz success story that begins with a chance visit to Junko's Place.



It's a harsh world out there.
It's not easy to get a job,
even if you want one.
But in order to survive,
you have to work every day,
even if you hate it.
But precious connections through
your friends could change your life.
It's a simulation game like that.



Be surrounded by mini-versions of NANA characters. They're even cuter this time. Try to get on board as stage crew and help amp up Blast and Trapnest shows!

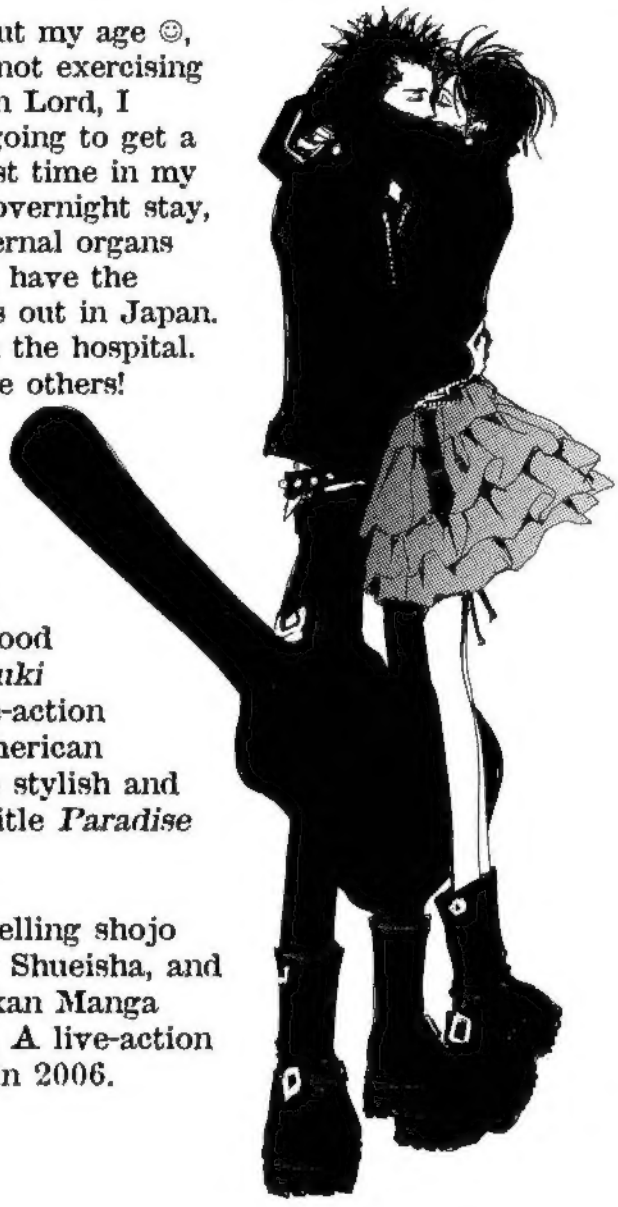


To Be Released Spring 2007!

©Yazawa Manga Seisakusho/Shueisha, VAP, Madhouse, NTV ©2007 Konami Digital Entertainment Co., Ltd.
※Screenshots are not the final versions. Nintendo DS is a registered trademark of Nintendo Co., Ltd.

☆ All products listed in this newspaper really exist. Please purchase without fear.

I don't particularly like talking about my age ☺, but maybe because of my age or not exercising enough or the curse of the Demon Lord, I can't overexert myself anymore. I'm going to get a thorough physical checkup for the first time in my life. It'll take two days, including an overnight stay, and they're going to check all my internal organs thoroughly. How frightening. I should have the results by the time this volume comes out in Japan. Please pray that I won't be thrown in the hospital. Not for my sake but for Nana and the others!



Ai Yazawa is the creator of many popular manga titles, including *Tenshi Nanka Janai* (I'm No Angel) and *Gokinjo Monogatari* (Neighborhood Story). Another series, *Kagen no Tsuki* (Last Quarter), was made into a live-action movie and released in late 2004. American readers were introduced to Yazawa's stylish and sexy storytelling in 2002 when her title *Paradise Kiss* was translated into English.

Nana has become the all-time best-selling shojo title from Japanese publishing giant Shueisha, and the series even garnered a Shogakukan Manga Award in the girls category in 2003. A live-action *Nana* movie was released in Japan in 2006.

Shojo Beat

NANA
VOL. 17

The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY AI YAZAWA

English Adaptation/Allison Wolfe
Translation/Tomo Kimura
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Sabrina Heep
Design/Julie Behn
Editor/Pancha Diaz

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
VP, Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye
VP, Sales & Product Marketing/Gonzalo Ferreyra
VP, Creative/Linda Espinosa
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

NANA © 1999 by Yazawa Manga Seisakusho. All rights reserved. First published in Japan in 1999 by SHUEISHA Inc., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged by SHUEISHA Inc.
The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

The rights of the author(s) of the work(s) in this publication to be so identified have been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Printed in Canada

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

Shojo Beat Manga Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, July 2009

RATED
M
FOR MATURE
PARENTAL ADVISORY
NANA is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers. This volume contains strong language and sexual situations.
ratings.viz.com